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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Congratulates Members, Allies on Liberation

LD0203230791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh 2 March (SPA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Permanent Secretariat has extended its congratulations to their majesties and their highnesses the GCC leaders on the occasion of the liberation of the State of Kuwait and its return to its prominent place in the march of goodness and sacrifices following the defeat of the Iraqi regime of oppression by the international forces of legality.

The GCC Permanent Secretariat in statement issued today described the military operations to liberate Kuwait as the emancipation of Kuwait from tyranny and aggression, given the unprecedented arrogance and stubbornness of the Iraqi regime of aggression.

The GCC Permanent Secretariat in its statement saluted all lovers of peace and goodness as well as the peoples that suffered from the Iraqi regime's aggression.

The following is the text from the GCC Permanent Secretariat:

"The truth has come, and falsehood has vanished. Surely falsehood is ever certain to vanish," God verily has spoken the truth.

The GCC Permanent Secretariat congratulates the GCC leaders and peoples for the liberation of Kuwait and its return to its prominent place in the march of goodness and sacrifice as an independent and sovereign state, following the defeat of the Iraqi repressive regime by the international forces of legality.

The liberation of Kuwait entered history through the stand of international legality, represented by the forces of the Gulf, Arab, Islamic, and international alliance facing the forces of destruction and ruination sent in by the Iraqi regime. It was a victory for the principles to which the great religion of Islam calls: brotherhood, kinship and removal of differences between Muslims by mutual agreement and understanding.

But, if understanding is not forthcoming, the wrong side must accept the commandment of God. The liberation of Kuwait was the saving of Kuwait from injustice and aggression by force, after the aggression regime had gone beyond any imaginable limits of obduracy and arrogance.

The restoration of Kuwait is the rule of law, a victory of the UN Charter, and in harmony with the charter of the Islamic Conference Organization and the road to the charter of the Arab League. The resolutions of their majesties and excellencies, the leaders of the council, at al-Dawhah, were that the liberation of Kuwait was unavoidable, peacefully if possible, or by war if necessary.

The secretariat congratulates all lovers of peace and goodness and all the peoples that have suffered from the aggression of the Iraqi regime, including the fraternal and helpless Iraqi people, which will be relieved of the suffering caused to it by the Iraqi regime, now that this regime has been defeated and its aggression repelled.

The secretariat expresses pride in the cohesion of the sons of the council member states, and their response to the liberation of Kuwait, in harmony with the decision of the leaders at the al-Dawhah summit, thus making available all the possibilities for this aim, and putting their stances and institutions at the service of the liberation of Kuwait.

It also underlines with admiration the role of Egypt and Syria in standing up in the face of the Iraqi aggression, and the strong defence of Arab and international legality, and the victory of the meaning of Arab brotherhood built on sacrifice.

The Secetariat also expresses its praise and appreciation for the role played by American President George Bush and by the allies, particularly Britain and France, and the other European countries in defense of international legitimacy and in support of the rule of law.

The forces of international legitimacy were triumphant over the forces of despotism, invasion and aggression because their will emanated from the power of right, a conviction in their behavior and the high esteem of the objective.

The Secretariat salutes this blessed day and aspires toward a future full of much hope, based on the principle that relations between states are conducted according to conventions and treaties and respect for the word, the abandonment of force, and loyalty to moral values and commitments, based on mutual interests and common benefits in light of security and mutual trust.

The return to the previous era, which was characterized by the plotting of the Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait, its betrayal of all conventions and treaties, the cooperation of some Arab regimes with the aggression and their adherence to its ugly practices without conscience and with no respect for the Arab League charter, and regardless to the charter of Arab brotherhood, is not possible.

GCC Ministerial Meeting Begins in Riyadh

Qatari Envoy Opens Session

LD0303150491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1252 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh 3 March (SPA)—Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] began the 38th session of the GCC Ministerial Council in Riyadh today.

His Excellency Mubarak Bin 'Ali al-Khatir, the Qatari foreign minister and chairman of the current session, delivered the opening speech.

He congratulated their majesties and highnesses, the leaders, and the peoples of the GCC on the occasion of the liberation of the State of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation and hailed the GCC leaders' efforts to support right and stand against wrong and give what is right to its lawful owners.

He also saluted the governments and peoples of fraternal Arab and Islamic countries, as well as other friendly countries which stood by the side of right, justice, and international legality.

The Qatari foreign minister and current GCC chairman added that our meeting falls within the framework of given circumstances which compel us to try to find a practical formula based upon strong pillars and common interests for joint work and to look into the concepts of pan-Arab security in a comprehensive manner, as well as all its aspects, and consider our countries' security and stability as an integral part of Arab and international peace and stability.

Afterward, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, made an address in which he stressed the importance of this meeting saying that it is being held at a turning point in our history. We have triumphed, praise be to God, thanks to the cohesion and firmness to face up to tyranny and aggression of our countries, our brethren, and our friends throughout the world. [passage omitted]

He stressed that Kuwait will always exist thanks to the cohesion and the determination of its sons, brethren, and friends. The defeat of aggression will always remain a lesson to the Iraqi regime and to everyone else who may be led astray in a world of fantasy and imagination. [passage omitted]

The shaykh expressed his thanks and appreciation on this occasion, in particular to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Islamic Republic of Iran for receiving their brethren the sons of the Kuwaiti people who were compelled by the Iraqi tyranny and oppression to leave Kuwait, adding that they were welcomed and well-looked after by their brethren, a matter which helped to alleviate their plight and overcome their exile and banishment.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: "My country was destroyed by the unjust Iraqi occupation during the past seven months. The occupier tried to deprive the State of Kuwait of all its assets through all the organized looting and destruction during the war. These actions have revealed the hatred in the depth of the soul of the occupier. We will do everthing we can, with the cooperation of the good number of fraternal and friendly countries, to start a wide reconstruction operation, and we hope that the brothers and friends will double their efforts in pushing the reconstruction operation forward so that my country will be able to continue its role within the context of the closely knit Gulf family and within the context of the Arab world, Islamic world, and international community. [passage omitted]

Ministers Issue Statement

LD0403181191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Mar (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers ended the 38th session of the GCC ministerial council meeting in Riyadh this afternoon.

The GCC secretary-general then reads out the press release issued at the end of the session. Here now is the full text of this press release:

The GCC Ministerial Council held its 38th session in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on Sunday and Monday, 3 and 4 March 1991 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mubarak Bin 'Ali al-Khatir, foreign minister of the state of Qatar. The session was atended by all the members of the Council:
Rashid Bin 'Abdallah al-Na'imi: UAE foreign minister.
Shaykh Muhammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifah: foreign minister of Bahrain.
His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal: foreign minister of the Kingdon of Saudi Arabia.
His Excellency Yusuf Bin 'Alawi: minister of state for foreign affairs of the Sultanate of Oman.
Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir: deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait.

The Ministerial Council reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf region in the aftermath of the liberation of Kuwait. The Council expresses its pride in the splendid success achieved by the forces of international legitimacy to remove the forces of the Iraqi regime from the soil of sisterly Kuwait, and for the raising of the Kuwaiti flag by the sons of Kuwait on Kuwaiti land liberated from the forces of aggression.

The council also expresses its gratitude to the steadfast people of Kuwait, who rejected occupation, fought against it, and rallied around its legitimate government led by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah. The council salutes the people's sacrifice and resistance against the terrorism, oppression, and executions practiced by the forces of despotism, aggression, and evil. The council congratulates Kuwait, its leadership, and people on their liberation and emancipation from the claws of the forces of crime, destruction, and backwardness.

The council also congratulates their majesties and highnesses, the GCC leaders, on the restoration of Kuwait to its former position on the march of goodness and generosity as an independent and sovereign state. The council hails the spirit of solidarity beween the sons of GCC states and their brave and excellent stance with their

brothers, the sons of Kuwait. This stance epitomized and deepened the significance of the one Gulf family.

The council appreciated the positions of all the states and peace-loving peoples that stood on the side of right and justice, and strongly supported the forces of liberation and deterrence of wrongdoing. The council is in sympathy with them for the damage they suffered as a result of the aggression of the Iraqi regime, and the consequences of its arrogance and its inhumanness. The council expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude for all the Arab, Islamic, and friendly states that contributed to carrying out the resolutions of international legality, and stood on the side of right, justice, and human principles in the face of the forces of killing, destruction, and ruination.

In particular, the council stresses with appreciation and pride the role of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic in standing in one rank with their brothers, the council member states, in the face of the aggression of the Iraqi regime, and their principled defense of Arab and international legality, in embodiment of brotherhood, and in strengthening Arab solidarity.

The council records with all appreciation and gratitude the role played by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada, and the other friendly states that contributed to providing human and material possibilities to ensure the fulfillment of the Security Council resolutions related to Kuwait, in defense of international legality.

The council also lauds the positive role played by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Senegal, Niger, the Afghan mujahidin, and other Islamic states in implementing the decisions of the Islamic Conference Organization to confront the aggression and to put an end to it, and in order to ensure the victory of international legality. The council prays to Almighty God to take the martyrs that answered the call of duty and fell in defense of legality into His paradise, and to bless their souls. They are indeed alive with their God, receiving His goodness.

The council calls for the implementation of the 13 Security Council resolutions related to the aggression of the Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait as the sole and ideal way to remove the traces and consequences of the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait, to realize the rule of law, and to prevent the recurrence of such aggression in the future.

The council reiterates its denunciation of the acts of murder, persecution, and oppression of the people of Kuwait committed by the forces of the Iraqi regime, as well as the setting fire to and sabotaging of oil wells and installations, the destruction of human and environmental life, and the pillaging of public and private properties of the sons of Kuwait and its people.

—The council also reaffirms the following:

—The need for the speedy implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 686.

—The need to ask the Iraqi authorities to release immediately all Kuwaiti civilian hostages and detainees.

—The need to hold Iraq fully responsible for all human and material losses suffered by Kuwait and to ask Iraq to pay reparations for these losses in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 674.

—The need to continue to impose the sanctions provided for in the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly, Resolutions 661, 665, and 670, until Iraq annuls its decision on the annexation of Kuwait.

—The need to maintain these sanctions until Iraq releases all Kuwaitis it detained and actually abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning the payment of reparations and the return of property pillaged from Kuwait.

—The need to eliminate all mass-destruction weapons from the Middle East region, including nuclear, chemical, and biological.

While expressing its appreciation of and pride in the achievements of international solidarity in regard to the liberation of Kuwait and the bolstering of international legitimacy, the Council of Ministers looks forward to working together with the other parties concerned in drawing up the basis for the restoration of regional peace and security to the Gulf region in accordance with the principles of international and Arab legitimacy in order to realize the aspirations of the region's sons in peace, security, and prosperity; in resolving differences by civilized peaceful means without the use of force or the threat of force, in order to create a world in which stability reigns and in which mankind's resources are employed for the good and prosperity of mankind.

The council records its extreme satisfaction with the preliminary steps taken for coordination and cooperation between the GCC member countries and the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic as a nucleus for a serious joint Arab action, in policy and in deed, within the framework of the principles and aims of international, Islamic, and Arab conventions. The council aspires to giving a push to these good steps in the service of the good and interests of the Arab peoples.

The council also reaffirms its desire to redress the disruption which has afflicted the Arab situation as a result of Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait and its failure to abide by the principles epitomized by the Arab League Charter.

The council will work to bolster cooperation among the fraternal Arab countries in accordance with Arab and Islamic principles and ideals; respect for the sovereignty and independence of Arab League member countries, respect for the regime prevailing in them, and noninterference in their internal affairs.

The council reiterates its complete desire to safeguard the unity and regional safety of the Iraqi territory and its stand by the Iraqi people in the ordeal brought on it by the Iraqi regime.

The council reiterates its affirmation of the need to exert greater effort together with the Arab and friendly countries to support the holding of an international conference to discuss the Palestinian question, coupled with adherence to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their soil.

GCC Foreign Ministers Arrive in Damascus 4 Mar

NC0403221991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, the GCC secretary general, and their delegations arrived in Damascus at 2200 today to participate in the GCC ministerial meeting opening in Damascus tomorrow. This meeting will also be attended by the Syrian and Egyptian foreign ministers. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the directors of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments, the ambassadors of the GCC states, and the Syrian ambassador to Saudi Arabia were at Damascus International Airport to receive them.

Mubarak Bin 'Ali al-Khatir, Qatari foreign minister and chairman of the current GCC foreign ministers session, made a statement to journalists in which he said: The convening of this meeting on the soil of Arab Syria is very important, especially as it is taking place after the liberation of Kuwait. There is a declaration on coordination and cooperation among the GCC states, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Arab Republic of Egypt within the framework of comprehensive cooperation on Arab security and on confronting the challenges now facing us. He added: Syria's stand is an honorable one and a source of pride to all of us. Syria stood on the side of Arab right and supported international legitimacy.

He continued: Undoubtedly, the occupation of the State of Kuwait caused a schism in the Arab structure and the Arab house. Now that Kuwait has been liberated, we hope that this house will be repaired and restored to its previous condition.

Asked whether a cooperation agreement will be signed during this ministerial meeting, he said: I believe this will be done.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Need To Resolve Palestinian Issue

LD0403221291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, has stressed that the Gulf war publicized the Palestine issue and made it appear as the primary issue in the Middle East. In a press interview yesterday [3 March], he said that the United States and Europe, which rejected Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's attempts to link the Kuwaiti and Palestine issues, now realize that peace cannot be established in the Middle East before the resolution of the Palestine issue.

Brother Abu-'Ammar denied that Saddam Husayn exploited the Palestine issue in an attempt to gain Arab support for Iraq. He also accused the United States and Israel of jointly conspiring to establish a Greater Israel that would include Lebanon, Jordan, half of Syria, most of Iraq, and a third of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said: I believe the new map of the Gulf which is being drawn up by the U.S. Government includes the building and establishment of Greater Israel. He added: The matter was not simply the rescue of Kuwait but the destruction of Iraq, and neither Muslims nor the Third World will forget that destruction.

Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar said: We highly value President Mitterrand's statement in which he focused on the importance of resolving the Palestine problem and the Palestinian people's right to a homeland and a state, and the Lebanese problem, since the Gulf problem has ended.

Brother Abu-'Ammar expressed his satisfaction at Mitterrand's proposal regarding the convening of a Security Council meeting at the level of heads of state and government to discuss the problems created by the Gulf crisis. Brother Abu-'Ammar said he considered the statement by the French defense minister yesterday on the implementation of international law on the Palestinians, Israel, and Lebanon, which confirmed the clarity of the French perception of the problems of the Middle East, as the only one which will secure peace and security in that explosive region.

Abu-Sharif Views Expectations After Gulf War

LD0203025891 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Peace is not yet official. There is already discussion about the postwar period. The postwar period also involves the Palestinian question. (Sonia Biskar) asked Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, currently in Tunis: How does the situation stand today?

[Begin Abu-Sharif recording] For the Palestinian people, the continuation of resistance against the occupation is their role. We are going to continue our resistance until the end of the occupation, and we believe that it is now the moral and political responsibility of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, to apply Resolution 242, which was decided more than 23 years ago. At the same time, we are saying that the end of the Gulf crisis requires rapid action by the Security Council and the permanent members of the Security Council to call on Israel to retreat and to make a political settlement for all the problems in the Middle East. Otherwise, the region—the Middle East—remains blurred. There is no stability and no security. At the same time, the point here is that there is a Security Council resolution that

was made more than 23 years ago. We have to call on the Security Council, on its permanent members, to respect the resolutions and to show us that the Security Council's enthusiasm for the application of the resolutions in the Gulf is the same enthusiasm for the application of the other resolutions, in particular Resolution 242. [end recording]

PNC Official Says Saudi Aid to PLO To Resume

NC0203183991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, has asserted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has pledged to resume its financial aid to the PLO and the intifadah in the near future. This information came during talks held by a Palestinian envoy, whose name he did not disclose, in Riyadh.

During a news conference in Amman today, al-Za'nun said that the Kuwaiti Government is aware of the threats directed against the Palestinians residing in the emirate, and is concerned about their welfare. He added that the number of Palestinians there is 170,000 following the departure of about 200,000.

Al-Za'nun, who left Kuwait on 15 January 1991, went on to say that the PLO office in Kuwait is operating normally, and that he has so far not been informed of any incident against any Palestinian.

Milhim on Mitterrand Statement, Baker Visit

NC0503134291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Mar 91 p 13

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] Amman—Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has welcomed the French president's call for a Palestinian homeland.

He told AL-DUSTUR yesterday that if what French President Mitterrand said comes to pass, it will end double standards in international resolutions. He added: No doubt, the Arab people, and the Palestinian people in particular, even at the peak of the Gulf crisis, looked for a distinct European role, especially a French one, so that matters related to such a sensitive issue like the Palestine question at the mercy of the U.S. Administration and the Zionist state. He also said: We hope that the French president's statements will be put into action and become reality in the near future.

He added: The materialization of what the French president said will help heal the rift and close the gap created by the Gulf crisis with regard to Europe and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Milhim said: If the Arabs want to heal the scars inflicted on Arab-European relations as a result of the Gulf crisis, then what the French president said yesterday must be implemented along with what the EC in Brussels has also said. European officials have said: The Palestine question is the essence of the conflict and must be resolved. Moreover, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has said that the Palestine question poisons the atmosphere. Therefore, movement to resolve the Palestine question underscores the fact that Europe has given its relations with the Arabs a new credibility and has treated the wounds and healed the rift. Milhim pointed out that actions must now follow to emphasize this new European trend, and not as Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that they are used to hearing this kind of talk and tone after every war in the Middle East. Do not believe what the Europeans say, the Israeli minister added.

Milhim said: We will leave it to Mitterrand and the Europeans to respond to the Israeli minister and prove their credibility.

Asked about U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's remark that solutions cannot be forced on Israel, Milhim said: This stresses that the Americans have double standards with regard to international resolutions. They force solutions only on the Arabs. They do not force them on Israel, despite its violation of international resolutions, constant challenges, and practices in the Middle East.

On reports that some Palestinian figures might boycott Baker's visit to the Zionist entity, Milhim said: Baker, who said that his country would not force solutions on Israel, appears to be telling our kinsfolk in the occupied homeland that there is no need to meet with them during his visit. He is predicting the outcome of these talks. Milhim said that meeting with Baker will be a departure from the Palestinian consensus because it will only lead to disappointment in Baker and the wrath of the Palestinian people. Not because we do not want to meet with Baker who has already disclosed his thoughts before arriving in the region, he said.

Milhim noted that some Palestinian institutions have announced that they will boycott the visit. In the meantime, these institutions might present a memorandum to Baker expressing the opinion of the Palestinian people inside, which is what they have been trying to do in the past when any European official visits the occupied territories.

PFLP Urges Kuwait Palestinians Be Protected

NC0403183491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, returned to Kuwait today after spending seven months in Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council member states began to send in-kind assistance to Kuwait. Likewise, PLO sources said that the Palestinians residing in Kuwait have been exposed to a large-scale campaign of

attacks and torture because they are accused of supporting Iraq. [passage omitted]

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, issued a statement today affirming that the Palestinians of Kuwait are being subjected to a large-scale campaign of torture and attacks. It expressed fear that a new Sabra and Shatila massacre could occur. The PFLP urged the governments, organizations, and international bodies which love peace and justice to stand on the side of the Palestinian people in order to protect them from the physical and political liquidation targeting them and to help them realize their national rights which were recognized by international legality, as the PFLP statement put it. [passage omitted]

VOP Calls UN To Protect Kuwaiti Palestinians

LD0403224191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Brothers: News agencies and various media, including the U.S. TIME magazine, point to the possibility of Kuwaitis perpetrating massacres against the Palestinians who have remained in Kuwait, and who number between 150,000 and 250,000. Information reported by these agencies from Kuwait, which is now under the protection of the U.S. and NATO alliance, confirm the presence of slogans on some walls in Kuwait city speaking of such massacres by pointing ominously to what took place in Jordan in 1970 during Black September, what took place in Lebanon in 1982 in Sabra and Shatilah, and what would take place in Kuwait in 1991.

The responsibility of the United Nations in this serious course of events is clearly to provide protection for our brothers, sons, and daughters who are in Kuwait, to safeguard their interests, plans, and their established and continuing rights. [passage omitted]

Intifadah Call Urges 'Increased Confrontation'

NC0303095091 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Jerusalem, March 3 (AFP)—Leaders of the anti-Israeli uprising called Sunday for Palestinians to stand by the PLO as post-war peace initiatives develop and to step up the battle in the occupied territories.

With the PLO under fire from the allies for backing Iraq, the intifadah leaders demanded "increased rallying around the PLO and adherence to it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are."

Arab coalition partners, as well as Western countries, have said the Palestine Liberation Organisation had lost much credibility through its strong support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Communique 68 from the underground Unified Leadership urged "increased confrontation" with Israeli forces on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and listed a series of protests.

It also called for an Arab boycott of U.S. and allied "goods, ships and cargo planes until their armies leave the Gulf."

The last statement from the leadership on February 18 had called for an escalation of the uprising, which began in December 1987, as part of the Gulf war on the side of Iraq.

The latest declaration saluted, in the name of the PLO, "the Iraqi people and its valiant army" and said that Bagdad's troops had "forced" the allies "to declare a cessation of combat action."

The communique called for a series of protests during March including:
—demonstrations on Tuesday in the territories and abroad in support of Iraq and to demand that foreign forces leave the Gulf,
—general strikes on March 9 to mark the 40th month of the uprising and on March 17 to mark two months since war broke out in the Gulf,
—March 21, a day for the "struggle ... confrontations to be escalated" marking the 1968 battle of al-Karamah, when Palestinians and Jordanian soldiers repelled an Israeli raid,
—March 30, Land Day, "to wage actions of mass fury and violence" throughout the territories and Israel.

The statement in the name of the Unified Leadership was issued solely by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayif Hawatimah, Palestinian sources said.

The other components of the leadership—the main PLO group Fatah, the communisty party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who have backed a rival DFLP faction—were not consulted about the communique.

The four groups had agreed jointly on previous statements, the sources said.

PLO Reviews Intifadah Tactics, Warns Kuwait

LD0303202191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Brother leader and President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the president of the state of Palestine and president of the PLO Executive Committee, last night presided over a meeeting of the Palestinian leadership and the intifadah committee. During the meeting, discussions covered the current political situations, particularly the Gulf situation and the conditions of our people in the occupied territories in light of recent political moves and the grave statements made by responsible Western officials in regard to dealing with the Palestinian people, and particularly as it has become clearly

evident that it is vital that the Palestine question should be raised away of false hollow international maneuvers in order to achieve the established national and inalienable rights of the Palestinians.

The conferees put forward a new working plan for the intifadah, considering the coming stage and the need to escalate it and to support our people, particularly from the economic point of view.

The Palestinian leadership also discussed reports it has received about acts of assault, violation, and arrests to which the sons of our Palestinian people in Kuwait are being subjected. Some world television networks have shown live pictures of such crimes, which are being committed against a number of Palestinians at the hands of some armed groups.

The PLO feels that the Government of Kuwait and all the Arab and international forces now in the city of Kuwait are held fully responsible for the safety of our sons. The PLO calls for the adoption of immediate measures to stop these crimes, violations, and arrests which are being committed against the sons of our community in Kuwait.

The PLO will monitor this grave situation in all fields out of concern for the safety and lives of the sons of our Palestinian people, who showed great care throughout all stages and at the most crucial times to preserve the relationship of fraternity which binds them to their brothers, the sons of Kuwait, and the other Gulf Cooperation Council member countries.

The PLO had addressed an official memorandum to a number of the Arab and international quarters alerting them of the need to provide protection to our sons, particularly following the hostile statements made by some circles toward our Palestinian people in Kuwait. The PLO continues to follow up this intensive effort on all levels.

Arab Liberation Front Hails Saddam Husayn

NC0403175491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1709 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] The Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has hailed mujahid leader Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi people for their courageous stand and their heroic steadfastness in the face of the U.S.-Atlanticist-Zionist aggression.

In a cable sent to the leader president, the ALF said: Your courageous position, heroic steadfastness, and manifest victory have had a great impact on the hearts of all noble, faithful, and honorable people all over the world. Willpower and faith are stronger than all weapons of destruction and death.

The ALF affirmed that this jihad battle, which has scored historic accomplishments and which has been replete with heroic steadfastness and epic battles, will continue to attest to strong will and deep faith. The results of this battle will usher in good news and serve as a threshold for a manifest victory for the Arabs, Muslims, and all well-meaning and honorable people, the ALF's cable added.

The ALF relayed the greetings of the Palestinian people from their militant trenches and from the heart of the valiant intifadah in occupied Palestine to the great Iraqi people under the mujahid President Saddam Husayn.

PLO Official Asks Italy's Help at UN

AU0703164891 Rome ANSA in English 0851 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] (ANSA) Tunis—Palestine Liberation Organisation official Bassam Abu Sharif called on Italy to demand an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in accordance with United Nations resolutions in an interview, Friday [1 March].

Speaking to the ANSA news agency, the advisor to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat urged Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis to champion the Palestinian cause in the U.N.

"Europe and the United States have repeatedly stated that occupations cannot be tolerated and De Michelis has been very clear on this issue," Abu Sharif said. "The Israeli presence in the occupied territories since 1967 constitutes a clear case of occupation, and we hope that De Michelis, along with his European Community counterparts, will make every effort to see that this comes to an end."

He suggested that a United Nations force replace Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza strip during a transition to an independent Palestinian state.

The PLO official warned of the tense situation in the Middle East following the defeat of Iraq in the Gulf war: "the situation in the Gulf is [word indistinct] and volcanic because there is now the feeling amongst the Arab masses that the destruction of infrastructures and of the military strength of Iraq will lead to domination."

Algeria

Bendjedid Criticizes U.S. 'Domination' of UN

LD0403114691 Algiers APS in English 1037 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, 4 Mar (APS)—During the sitting of the Second National Conference of Magistrature, President Chadli Bendjedid stated that the UNO has become "the hostage of the USA," that was after the adoption by the Security Council of the Resolution 678 giving the green light to allied forces to liberate Kuwait.

It seems more evident than ever, following the acceptance by the same instance of the U.S. draft resolution, which has become the Resolution 686, that developments show that President Chadli was right when he expressed a short time ago his concerns. These seem to be shared by a certain number of nonaligned countries—electioned members of the Council—which expressed on Saturday their disagreement with the U.S. resolution due to the trivial part devoted to the UN and because it leaves the door opened to a resumption of hostilities at the initiative of the allied force led by the USA.

Beyond the fundamental question of the restructuring of the international institution and particularly concerning the domination of the five great nations on the world affairs by disposing of the right to veto—the 686 resolution which was adopted stressed in the same time all the injustice which is the lot of the "small nations" and the overkings of great powers in the world management. Concerning this last resolution, one is to note the fact that it demands that Iraq "concretizes its accepting" of the twelve resolutions relating to the Gulf crisis constitutes a new paper signed in blank to the allied forces led by the USA, nevertheless by means of the ceasefire the international public opinion draws all the conclusions to which the war cruelty of the allied forces resulted in.

Paradoxically, the insistance expressed by the USA to make its draft resolution adopted questions on its militant opposition for the application of other resolutions, taken however at a time when the Security Council was more credible—such as Resolutions 242 or 338 concerning the Palestinian question or those concerning the occupation of South Lebanon by the Israeli troops—although the ordinary observer remains embarrassed by such attitude, he noted that the U.S. policy is based on two different concepts. Because how to justify an intervention in Kuwait on behalf of the international law. Nevertheless this law is violated, with the U.S. military and economic support, since 1948 by Israel. It is also with the support of the international law that the Resolution 686 has been adopted with all what it can carry as threats against Iraq.

Such as "the sword of Damocles" it is hanging over Iraqi leaders—and consequently over the Iraqi people—if they do not reach the norms of the "Pax Americana", it is on behalf of this latter that thousands of children were killed as thousands of others were killed in Vietnam.

Foreign Minister Fears 'International Disorder'

LD0403114791 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Algerian authorities fear that in the wake of the Gulf war extensive international disorder will take a firm hold. In an interview with the French paper LE FIGARO, [Algerian] Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali says that France's choice during this crisis will weigh on future discussions between France and Algeria. He believes that the eclipse of the Soviet Union has not been compensated by increased power for Europe, which leaves just one country, the United States, in charge of running the affairs of the world, stressing the risks of the absence of a counterweight power.

Council of Ministers Session Views Military Plan

LD0503021891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid. The Council of Ministers' agenda dealt with the defense of the homeland. The council discussed a draft bill concerning the military program for 1991 to 1997. It concerns the definition of objectives in the field of defense policy, taking into consideration the overall dangers of an attack that might occur on national soil in relation to the development of strategic stakes in the medium and long terms.

The preparation of the program's draft bill is a new action that falls within the framework of the new rules of the institutions that involve the legislator in the process of decisionmaking, and within the framework of the consequences of the defense policy on investment, human resources, and the development of basic structures.

The Council of Ministers listened to proposals regarding the reinforcement of decentralization and speeding up the local development programs.

The full text of the statement of the Council of Ministers will be released later.

Pro-Western Arab States Said Creating New Order

LD0503040991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Every new day the features of the conspiracy that began with the aggression against Iraq became clearer. With that, the real role assigned to Arab regimes to complete the episodes of that conspiracy also become clear. After pushing through the decision of the Arab cover up at the inauspicious Cairo summit, known Arab countries contributed to supporting the aggression materially, militarily, and through the media. Now these countries feel victorious regarding the destruction, killing, and calamity achieved by the crusader machinery of aggression against the Iraqi Arab side.

The same haughty sentiment of power and arrogance embodied in the statement made by Bush, his men, and his Western allies covetous of our nation's wealth—that same sentiment—is spreading in the Arab side that allied itself with aggression. [passage omitted]

The first signs came in a statement by King Fahd rebuking brother Arabs who stood by Iraq. Undoubtedly, the words of rebuke here were the soft introduction to firmer stances that would follow. In an official speech two days ago, the Egyptian president demanded convening an ordinary Arab summit meeting, and assumed there were conditions for regaining Arab solidarity, first of which is to stop describing the war against Iraq as a war between good and evil, between East and West, between faith and blasphemy. Then the Qatari foreign minister stated that the region's countries must reorganize their reality, taking into account the Western countries' interests in the region. To top all these statements came the recent announcement that the Gulf Cooperation Council will discuss in its ongoing meeting the basis for establishing a new Arab order.

Thus, it is finally being disclosed in a direct way that the Arab countries that fought against Iraq have another role that is more far-reaching than the one they played at the Cairo summit. They have achieved a rift in the principle Arab organization, which was until then the only container for minimum Arab consultation as a means of achieving more than minimum joint Arab cooperation. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Western Interest in Iraq's Rulers

LD0403141191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] With the start of the war of deals for the reconstruction of the Princedom of Kuwait and Iraq following the cessation of military operations, there is a great deal of talk in the West about the preparation campaign for the war of deals among the investors of the Western coalition.

Alongside this campaign, there is a parallel campaign aimed at lending support to the policy of every coalition member country. It seems the aim of this campaign is to pave the way for determining which of the policies is more successful and which one of the heads of state enjoys the greatest popularity. The surveys of public opinion regarding this have erred in terms of their fields and venues alike, particularly regarding the question of peace and security in the Middle East.

It is apparent from these activities that the Western people are more concerned than the people of the Middle East themselves on this matter. Here is a commentary by our colleague Tayeb Bouterfis, read by Ahmed Fadli, on this point:

[Begin Fadli recording] Since the start of the war in the Middle East, and since the information campaign waged by all Western information media against Iraq prior to the military operations under the UN umbrella, the West has been carrying out surveys and public opinion polls in France, the United States, and Britain on the extent of public support for the policies of Mitterrand, Bush, and the London rulers regarding the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Western public opinion was also surveyed regarding the degree of these people's hatred for the Iraqi president and the need to remove him from power. The last survey took place during the past two days, following the cessation of military operations in the Western coalition's war against Iraq.

What does this mean? Regarding the question of peace and security in the Middle East, the authorities concerned with public opinion should have carried out their survey among the people of the Middle East because they are the ones concerned with this matter in the first place and not the Western people.

Such a survey could be successful in only one case, namely, when it asks the people of the Middle East about the means and policies that should be employed to achieve this aim, and to be followed later by all the other people.

The Western media's propagation for the results of Western public opinion in the matter of the removal of Saddam Husayn constitutes interference in an internal matter that concerns Iraq and the Iraqis alone. More than anybody else, they have the right to choose who is to lead them. Raising the idea, by its very nature, is impermissible and null and void.

Would it be right for our country, for example, to survey public opinon on the acceptance or nonacceptance of a policy of a head of a state of any neighboring country or whether he should continue in office of not? That would constitute interference in internal affairs and a violation of international law.

This leads us to say that the countries that lead the coalition against Iraq in defense of international legitimacy and international order do not hesitate to violate these principles soon after they complete the task that they describe as the defense of legitimacy. [end recording]

Commentary Warns of Western 'Hegemony,' 'Intrigues'

LD0303204991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Lakhdar Hamzah commentary]

[Excerpts] The past weeks and conditions we have lived through, despite all the agonies, tragedies, bright spots, and aspirations, have enabled us to realize most definitely the truth about what the West harbors for us and for all the people who refuse bargaining, treason, and submission to hegemony.

The advocates of false freedom and democracy in the West have one common objective, however numerous their views might be and however different their opinions. This objective is to destroy every line or trend that conflicts with their interests and ambitions. They resist such lines or trends with all means: with trickery, deception, hypocrisy on some occasions and with flexing muscles and using force—even with internationally prohibited weapons—on other occasions.

What is important to them is to put out the torch, subdue and humiliate the people, and assassinate their hopes and aspirations in order to subjugate and subdue them and force them to betray their principles and values.

In the face of this rancor, which has been affirmed by events past and present, we find ourselves called upon—if not to say obliged, whether we like it or not, and more than at any time in the past—to review our methods of dealing, taking into consideration the rights of the homeland. Pride in affiliation is something great and beautiful. But what is greater and more beautiful is for us to feel that we are truly contributing to the building and progress of our homeland and indeed to the enhancement of its already great pride. Only in this way can we honor our duties to the homeland, reply to the intrigues of the intrigue-mongers, and push the wheel of our comprehensive integrated revival in all fields—scientific, educational, economic, and others.

There is no time for outbiddings and hollow slogans, which are of no use whatsoever. The biggest challenge we can put to the forces of evil and oppression and to those holding a grudge is our anxiousness to unify our ranks, work for national solidarity, and work earnestly for the realization of our hopes and aspirations in all fields, including even the field of sports. [passage omitted]

The greater our ambitions in the battle for building the homeland's revival—including doubling production, stopping the hemorrhage of reliance on imports, raising the standard of education to keep abreast with the age, mastering technology, and building a strong economy unaffected by transient events—the stronger and more immune the homeland becomes and the more safe from the intrigues of the intrigue-mongers and those laying in wait for it. This will surely enable us to have a better and happier life.

Egypt

Defense Minister Meets British Defense Secretary

NC0403194491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] This evening, General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, received Tom King, British secretary of state for defense, who arrived in Cairo this evening.

During the meeting, they discussed the military situation in the Gulf and the conduct of military operations there. They also discussed the experience gained and the lessons drawn in general from the Gulf war. Furthermore, they discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the fields of military industries and the exchange of expertise.

The British secretary of state for defense made statements saying that the performance of the Egyptian troops in the war for the liberation of Kuwait was good. He added that cooperation between them and the allied troops was excellent. He went on to say: This is what prompted me to come here from Kuwait directly to extend my thanks to the Egyptian defense minister for the efforts made by the Egyptian troops in this war and also for the great cooperation that we have had. He indicated that the British press lauded the performance of the Egyptian troops.

Fatah Envoy Praises Mubarak Pan-Arab Plan

NC0403155891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo, has described President Husni Mubarak's speech as a pan-Arab action plan submitted to the Arab nation to enable it to cope with the ordeal, now that the guns have fallen silent in the Gulf. He added that this would make it easy for the Arab nation to cope with the challenges facing it presently and in the future.

In a statement today, al-Qidrah affirmed the PLO's eagerness to restore Arab solidarity as soon as possible on the basis of the Arab summit resolutions, the Arab League Charter, and all Arab League agreements and resolutions to help cope with these challenges and protect the pan-Arab destiny and security.

Jordan, PLO Seeking Improved Ties With Egypt

PM0403170591 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Saddam's Allies Request Improved Relations With Egypt"]

[Text] Three Arab states have officially requested improved relations with Egypt and the closure of the file on their differences over the Gulf crisis. Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the ruling military council in Sudan, has this week asked Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to intervene to persuade the political leadership in Egypt to agree to receive him in Cairo and restore warmth to relations between Cairo and Khartoum. The sources pointed out that the Sudanese Government informed Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq of its utmost concern over the Sudanese opposition's increasing activities in Cairo and the Egyptian authorities' intention to allow an opposition radio to

transmit from Cairo, an official opposition newspaper to be published in Egypt, and opposition movement offices to be opened in Egypt. The sources pointed out that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry informed the Egyptian Embassy of its dissatisfaction with the Egyptian authorities' treatment of the Sudanese. The Sudanese Foreign Ministry stressed the need to work to improve Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the various fields in isolation from the differing views over the Gulf crisis.

The sources confirmed the Egyptian Government's receipt of a Jordanian request through Muhab Muqbil, Egyptian ambassador in Amman, to settle the differences between Cairo and Amman, cease the mutual media campaigns, and close the Gulf file completely. Egypt welcomed the Jordanian request and promised to work to improve relations between the two countries in the future. Furthermore, PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani this week had consultations with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, over ways of eliminating tension in Egyptian-Palestinian relations and transcending the phase of differences over the Gulf crisis.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Briefs Council of Ministers on Trip

EA0303183091 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has said that his recent Arab tour has clearly shown awareness and complete agreement on the strategic threats to the capabilities of the Arab nation. He said there exists a common understanding between the leaders of the sisterly Arab states he visited concerning the need and necessity to safeguard Iraqi capabilities which, in the final analysis, form the capabilities of the Arab nation, so that the Zionist state does not become the center of power in the Middle East region, where it poses a dangerous and strategic threat to the present and the future of the Arab nation.

His excellency said this at the briefing he presented to the Council of Ministers yesterday on his Arab tour, which included Jordan, Libya, Syria, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Algeria. He said that the tour had crystallized an Arab stand with its future implications, saying particularly that there are endeavors under way to invite the Arab foreign ministers to discuss a formula urgently needed for the required Arab stand at this stage, instead of the Arab nation waiting for the Western allies to impose upon them that role from their own point of view.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir clarified that the meetings of the Maghreb Council of Ministers, by widening the invitations to their Arab colleagues, served the joint Arab goal of ensuring a better Arab situation to confront the current situation. [passage indistinct] Jordan and Mauritania will witness a welcoming development: This understanding will be strengthened by the cultural, economic, and commercial cooperation and all other forms of joint cooperation between Sudan and these countries.

Government Allegedly Received Stolen Kuwaiti Gold

PM0503092691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 1 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Front Government In Sudan Seizes Kuwait's Gold"]

[Text] Cairo—SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned from reliable sources that al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the ruling military council in Sudan, received one tonne of Kuwaiti gold during his recent visit to Baghdad. Following his meeting with al-Zubayr in Baghdad before the war broke out, Saddam Husayn issued instructions to deliver the quantity from the stolen Kuwaiti gold. The source said that observers were not surprised by the National Islamic Front government's receipt of the stolen Kuwaiti gold, since it is totally consistent with the behavior of the front, which has plundered the Sudanese economy through its banks and trade establishments.

Meanwhile, legal circles have said that the Islamic Front government's action makes it liable to criminal prosecution for receiving stolen property and that it will not be able to sell or dispose of the stolen gold, since the Kuwaiti Government has informed the world's gold markets of the characteristics of the gold stolen by the Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti markets.

Envoys Discuss Attacking 'Colonialistic' Interests

EA2602171291 Khartoum SUNA in English 1023 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA)—Acting minister of foreign affairs 'Abdallah M. Ahmad met yesterday the accredited Arab ambassadors to Sudan. During the meeting the minister alluded to his meeting with the Soviet ambassador after the ground attack on Iraq. In a statement to SUNA he said that Sudan supports the Soviet initiative on the Gulf war. He also called on the Arab states to support the initiative so that military actions may stop.

In the encounter they tackled the necessity of supporting Iraq not only with demonstrations and issuing statements but by attacking the colonialistic interests. They also discussed the possibility of exerting efforts through Non-Aligned Movement and the African and Islamic states to press for peace solutions. The attendants agreed to utilise the contradictions between Arab states in diplomacy and information to protect the Arab nation from the colonial conspiracy. [sentence as received]

The ambassadors who attend the meeting were of Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, Palestine, Tunisia, Somalia and Morocco.

Bahrain

Amir, Egypt's Mubarak Discuss Situation

NC0403204391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1950 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] MANAMA, 4 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Amir of the State of Bahrain, received a telephone call from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today, during which the two leaders exchanged views on the current situation in the region in the wake of the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy to it. They also discussed the profound fraternal relations between the two countries.

His highness the amir of Bahrain expressed his gratitude and appreciation to his brother the Egyptian president for his sincere sentiments toward his highness and Bahrain. The amir also wished the Egyptian president good health and the Egyptian people further progress, well-being, and prosperity under his wise leadership.

Amir Receives Message From UK's Major

NC0303141991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1048 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from British Prime Minister John Major related to the existing and firm bilateral relations and the means of developing and strengthening them.

The message also reviewed the conditions in the area following the cessation of fighting, the liberation of Kuwait, restoration of its legitimacy, and the hope for a future where peace, security, and stability in the region will prevail. The message was received through diplomatic channels.

Amir Receives Message From Germany's Kohl

NC0303144791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from the German chancellor. The message was delivered by the German charge d'affaires in Bahrain, Manfred Albrecht, during his audience with his highness the amir here today.

WAKH learned that the message included congratulations on the end of the war. It praised the victory of the allied forces over the Iraqi aggression forces as a victory for justice and freedom over injustice and aggression. The message underlined the importance of strengthening relations between Arab and Western countries in confronting the challenges of the future and the need to find a lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Leaves for GCC Meeting 3 Mar

NC0303115991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0922 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah has left Manama for Riyadh. He will chair the Bahraini delegation to the meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] Ministerial Council's 38th session which will begin at the GCC Secretariat later today. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Government To Complete Return to 'Homeland'

LD0403145191 London KUNA in Arabic 1341 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Riyadh 4 March KUNA—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, said the arrival [in Kuwait] of the Kuwaiti Government will be completed today, to carry out its work from the homeland.

He said Kuwait is now enjoying the presence of Gulf armies and some fraternal Arab armies, and he stressed the situation will settle down in one week at most.

Concerning the Damascus meetings due to be held tomorrow by the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states, Egypt, and Syria, and the view of the free state of Kuwait on future Arab coordination, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said in a press statement: We are looking forward to Arab coordination in the domain of security and stability in the region.

He further said this coordination started with the GCC, Egypt, and Syria, and this cooperation is open to any Arab state willing to contribute to the new situation emanating from the charter of the Arab League.

Regarding what was announced by President Husni Mubarak of Egypt on the need to realize Arab reconciliation, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said President Mubarak had spoken on behalf of his brothers the kings and presidents of the Arab states, and at the same time, he spoke about Egypt and its people. We say to the Egyptian people that it was a proud people that stood up with right. This was said by President Mubarak, and we say that the president has told the truth about the people of Egypt.

Concerning the security arrangements in the region, Shaykh al-Sabah said: We hope there will be coordination of Arab security. He stressed that everything will be alright after such a coordination. As for the program for financing Arab development, and the states that will benefit from it, he said the GCC Ministerial Council did not go into details on this subject, but it had agreed in principle, and it is open to all the Arab states.

'Complete Plan' Drawn Up

LD0403232191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Announcement by the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry; from the "Kuwait Message"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; if God supports you, you will not be defeated. [Koranic verse] Honorable sons of Kuwait, loyal people of the country, these are auspicious and happy days we are living now after God granted us his support and the tyrant aggressors who defiled the dear soil of the homeland have been driven away. [passage omitted]

The Interior Ministry praises the patience of our people abroad, and has the pleasure of announcing to the honorable citizens who were forced by the state of occupation to stay abroad that it has drawn up a complete plan to facilitate their organized return to Kuwait in the near future after the removal of all that may threaten their safety, such as mines, explosives, and other things, and after the provision of basic services, such as electricity, water, health care, and food supplies, in a way that will not cause citizens inside to compete for the limited basic and necessary services that are available now in Kuwait.

While the Interior Ministry understands the citizens' eagerness to return to the homeland soon to reassure themselves about their families, it hopes to cooperate with them in whatever may serve the public interest and the safety of citizens. Serious work is under way to provide telecommunications equipment to facilitate contacts between citizens abroad and their families in Kuwait and to reassure themselves about them, until such time as the repatriation plans are put into effect.

The Interior Ministry urges honorable citizens to expect the issuance of another statement in the next few days that will include arrangements for the return of everyone to the homeland. We pray to God to save Kuwait from every harm, under the leadership of his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, and his loyal heir apparent, Prime Minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Amir Receives Messages From Ethiopia, France

LD0403033491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0034 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 3 Mar (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, has received a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam. The message was delivered by Tesfaye Dinka, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during his audience with the Amir this evening. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad also received a message from French President Francois Mitterrand when he received the French minister delegate of Budget, Mr. Michel Charasse, this evening.

The two audiences were attended by the advisor at His Highness the Amir's office, Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Atiqi, and Minister of Finance Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi.

Committee Issues Report on Internal Situation

LD0503124291 London KUNA in Arabic 1117 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 5 Mar (KUNA)—A statement issued by the International Committee for Solidarity with Kuwait (ICSK) inside Kuwait said that a temporary headquarters for the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has been chosen until a permanent one is found.

The statement, received here today by KUNA, added that Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, will be meeting today with leaders of the civil and military resistance as well as leaders of the committees of services and the committees of solidarity as well as a number of dignitaries, to coordinate the state of emergency with the government and facilitate the management of citizens' affairs during the state of emergency. [passage omitted]

The ICSK pointed out that an appeal was made in Kuwait today calling upon citizens and foreign residents to report to Kuwaiti guards the names of Kuwaitis and foreign residents who are missing or are prisoners for action to be supervised by the Red Cross.

The ICSK added in its statement that Hawalli and al-Nuqrah districts have been surrounded by the Kuwaiti Army "to protect foreign residents in those districts, provide means of security for them, and distribute commodities in a normal manner in those districts through their own cooperatives."

The committee stated that a gang led by an Iraqi was arrested. The mission of this gang was to kidnap and rape young girls and boys before killing them, in addition to collaborating with Iraqi intellegence services and supplying them with information on young members of the resistance. The gang members confessed their crimes and admitted that they carried out their acts in return for sums of money, alcohol, and drugs.

The committee press release said that a prison in the region of al-Murqabat was discovered, behind the Ministry of Education, where Kuwaiti women were tortured. This prison was based at an underground parking garage. The press release stated that a number of tortured female corpses were discovered. The bodies were buried by Kuwaiti nationals in a cemetery. Another center for the detention and torture of Kuwaitis was discovered at the Bibi Salim complex.

Meanwhile, the ICSK press release reported that 30 Iraqi soldiers were arrested by the forces of the Kuwaiti resistance. They and their weapons were handed over to a police station in a Kuwaiti region.

Iraqi 15th Division's Defense Plan Found

LD0403151191 London KUNA in Arabic 1343 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Mar (KUNA)—KUNA has obtained here today files on the defensive plan of the Iraqi 15th Infantry Division, under the command of Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim Khalil Ibrahim, in case the allied forces launched an offensive on the city of Kuwait.

The files, obtained by the agency's correspondent, are dated 23 February and encompass the areas defended by the 15th Infantry Division, which extended from al-Sayf Palace to the Council of Ministers building and from the al-Bid' area to the al-Fintas area.

The commander loaded all the files in his vehicle to flee from the intense bombing of his units. He was unable to implement his defensive plan and did not touch the military documents that were found.

The military plan focused on the fact that all orders for combat with the allied forces were issued directly by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn with the exception of surprise attacks.

Embassy Reopenings Continue in Kuwait City

Bahraini Envoy Returns

NC0303234491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2050 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Ambassador to Kuwait 'Isa Muhammad al-Jami' arrived in Kuwait city this afternoon to resume his post.

An official ceremony to reopen the Bahraini Embassy and raise the Bahraini flag was held after Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation. The ceremony was attended by a number of Kuwaiti citizens.

Qatar Resumes Operations

NC0203091891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Doha, 2 Mar (WAKH)—The Qatari Foreign Ministry has announced that its embassy in Kuwait resumed operations immediately after the liberation of fraternal Kuwait was announced.

In a statement carried by QNA [QATARI NEWS AGENCY], a Foreign Ministry official source said that the Qatari ambassador to Kuwait has arrived at his post to resume duties. The embassy will resume normal and comprehensive operations within the next few days.

Senegal Raises Flag

AB0103221191 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Following the government's decision to reopen our diplomatic representation in the Emirate of Kuwait, the command of the Senegalese contingent in Saudi Arabia today made a reconnaissance trip to the embassy in Kuwait City. During a brief ceremony at the chancellery, the national flag was hoisted today by a detachment of the Senegalese contingent in Saudi Arabia. The embassy was placed under the permanent supervision of this contingent.

Canada Announces Reopening

LD0203211391 Riyadh SPA in English 1930 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 2, SPA—Canada has re-opened its embassy in Kuwait, Canadian Forces headquarters in the Gulf announced today.

Ambassador Larry Dickenson and military commander Commodore Ken Summers hoisted the Canadian flag over the embassy building. The United States, Britain, Egypt and France have also reopened their embassies in Kuwait.

Swiss Red Cross Begins Work in Kuwait City

LD0203154991 Bern International Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has begun humanitarian work in Kuwait City. An ICRC statement said a seven-member team, including a doctor and a sanitary engineer, had begun assessing the needs for emergency aid.

The Red Cross team is also providing assistance to civilians from countries which do not have a diplomatic representation in Kuwait. The ICRC is also organizing aid shipments to Baghdad from Jordan and Iran while other ICRC delegates are visiting Iraqi prisoners of war held by allied forces in Saudi Arabia.

Jordan's King Husayn Criticized for Iraq Support

LD0203033891 London KUNA in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Mar 91

["KUNA Analysis: Following the Liberation of Kuwait, a Careful Reading of King Husayn's Stand"—KUNA headline; formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] London, 1 Mar (KUNA)—After the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the Jordanian sovereign, King Husayn, emerged before the world to take a stand on Kuwait. Now, he continues to be committed to this stand even after the defeat of the Iraqi occupation forces and the country's return to freedom and independence as a result of a firm international attitude in which all the states of the world were unanimous on the need for Iraq to comply with international legitimacy and not to reward Iraq in any form for its aggression.

It seems this stand taken by King Husayn is neutral, that it rejects the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and, at the same time, rejects the presence of allied forces, which came to impose the will of the international community on the aggressor in the Gulf area. It also seems to continue the call to solve the problem within an Arab framework and to warn against the destruction and tragedies that ultimately result from war.

But, only God knows the hidden side and the motives behind this stand that the king insists on even today, although we are inclined to believe that it is not devoid of selfishness and narrow outlooks which the the owner of the Hashemite throne has been distinguished by ever since he was crowned king in the fifties. We would have believed

and would have been deceived by this stand taken by the king and by the truth, sincerity, emotion, concern, and pain which he excelled in displaying on his face in all his addresses and speeches since 2 August, had we been among those who forget his role in many calamities, tragedies, and pains which shook the Arab nation in its modern history, or had we forgotten the seas of blood in which the Palestinians swam in Jordan during the September [1970] massacre at the hands of his valiant army, or had our memory been wiped of all the roles in which he coordinated with the enemies of the nation to strike at and crush the nation so that he remains lord over a throne at the Basman Palace, which he built on the skulls and bodies of thousands of victims.

Today, the king came out wearing his same venerable and apprehensive face to deliver a speech full of advice and lessons we ought to learn following the tribulation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait—an occupation that crushed us, first as Kuwaitis; and second, it crushed us and with us all Arabs; and third, it crushed us as human beings who have rights to live freely and independently on the land of a free and independent homeland.

King Husayn begins his speech by saying that he realized from the beginning how things would turn out if Iraq continued to occupy Kuwait and if we failed to resolve the problems by peaceful methods within an Arab framework, but he was not successful. Having been slain by the knife of occupation for seven months and more, does he want us to believe that?

Does his majesty expect us to believe him after he failed to utter one word of condemnation of the murder, torture, rape, and destruction that the occupiers sowed in all parts of Kuwait? How can we believe him after he shut his ears to all the outcries of our innocent people at a time when the entire world stood to condemn and denounce those practices? His majesty continues to refuse to issue one single word of condemnation. Even in his speech today, after all parts of the world were shown live testimonies of the crimes practiced by the Iraqis in our country—bodies of old and young men, boys, and women who were disfigured, killed, tortured, and humiliated at the hands of a brother—pictures that even make a fetus grow old, pictures that indicate nothing but secret hatred in the hearts of those who carried out such acts against a peaceful people, small in number, whose only guilt is that they clung to their homeland and stood their ground, resisting the occupier despite the latter's savagery and facing up to its injustice and bloodiness in the most glorious picture of bravery, sacrifice, and loyalty to the land in all the sublime meanings this represents.

We would have believed his majesty, had our victorious return to our liberated country not revealed hundreds of boxes of weapons and ammunition bearing the inscription "The Jordanian Arab Army" which were presented to the occupation forces to be used to kill our people and strengthen the grip on our homeland. Everybody testifies that our country has always stood in support of its brothers, foremost Jordan, in their tribulations, without claiming any favors. How can we but feel bitter, pain, and sorrow when we see our brothers cooperating to humiliate and subjugate us, and one of them sending his army under the cover of darkness of night to occupy our land, while the other gives him the material and moral support he needs—a matter that helped the second to continue the occupation and that split the Arab ranks and prevented Arabs from taking a unified stand in condemnation of the aggression. Had such a stand been taken, it would have made our nation and peoples avoid all this destruction, blood, pain, and suffering.

Would his majesty tell us the origin of those weapons, why they were brought in, and for what reason? Was the huge Iraqi Army, which was armed to its teeth, in need of them? No, we do not think so. We think they were brought in as an incentive to encourage the aggressor to go ahead with his aggression, with his transgression and his tyranny, in order that he might sink further into the Kuwaiti quagmire so that he might only leave when his military machine had been so totally destroyed that it would not constitute a threat to the Hashemite throne. The weapons could have been brought in to make a profit from commissions to be paid to some well-known arms dealers in Jordan who did not waste the opportunity of this crisis to add a few more millions to their vaults.

His majesty also says in his address: "Gratifications of one's thirst for revenge and mutual reproach are not Arab characteristics, nor are they part of the Arabs' moral values, because they beget hate, contention, and animosity. Forgiveness and forgetting the past are the only things that can bandage the wound, curing it and returning harmony to the ranks of the Arab nation." God is our witness. We would like to say to His Majesty and others that it was never our habit or our nature to seek to gratify our thirst for revenge or blame others. No, God forbid. We were not brought up to be like that. Forgiveness is our main characteristic, but not for someone who wounds our honor, proscribes our killing, and oppresses our people in one of the modern era's ugliest occupations.

We have always believed in forgiveness, but not in burying the past, because we tried to bury many things in the past and thereby did not learn a lesson. We believe that the lesson we should draw from this ordeal is that people guilty of pushing the nation into darkness, crisis, and calamities must not be forgotten. They must be brought to trial. Not by us, as we can only govern our country and rule it. We are convinced, however, that those responsible will be tried by our brethern, who cannot be misled or misguided forever. Surely one day they will wake up to the truth and the fact that their leadership misguided them and led them to needless uncertainties.

The king advises Arabs to begin a new chapter in our life now that all have expressed a pure and true intention to bring about reconciliation, understanding, and closeness; to put an end to doubt, misgivings, and all reasons of dispute; and to establish Arab-Arab relations supported by the fear of God, mutual confidence, and loyalty to the

aspirations of our nation and its coming generations to live in freedom, security, peace, and stability.

God knows that we have always been people of pure and true intention. We had believed in good faith what the king and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told us—that Saddam Husayn pledged not to use force and would not embark on any military action against Kuwait. That is why we did not put our Army on alert, believing that our dear brothers could not share in an operation to deceive and misguide us. But we did this only to be taken by surprise a few days later by the Iraqi Army descending on us. We are always for Arab-Arab relations based on the fear of God and mutual confidence. These are the fundamental principles that have governed all our foreign policy practices ever since independence. But to be realistic and objective, we have to say that our relations with the Arab peoples are as they were, and are unaffected, despite our conviction that sectors of these Arab peoples have been deceived by mercenary, lying media. As for our relations with the regimes that participated in our slaughter, it is difficult for us to see these relations one day returning to what they used to be. We will not be deceived and duped after today.

The fear of God, which the king asks us to have, has always been in our hearts and in our conscience. We would like to ask him: Where is the fear of God in your own heart and in the hearts of those who stood by injustice, supporting it while seeing our sons, brothers, and fathers being killed day after day under the tracks of the tanks of occupation and our dignity, honor, and sanctity being trampled under the savage boots that do not know the value of Islam, humanity, or ethics?

In another part of his speech, his majesty says that today is the day of contemplation and soul-searching to dress the bleeding wounds and unite the peoples at pan-Arab level and lay strong foundations for building the future we aspire to for our coming generations, as the nation has not started with us to end with us. We would like to say to his majesty that the dressing of the bleeding wounds of Kuwait will not be easy. Each day reveals the story of a new wound and other bloodshed permitted by the occupier. How can we forget all that and extend our hand while the blood is still pouring from the Kuwaiti body to the person who made such wounds in this body?

We pause at a sentence spoken by the king, and here we are in total agreement with him: The nation did not start with us to end with us. Our conviction is strong that this nation is capable of overcoming any historic storm, such as that that the Iraqi regime created. We can expel from among our ranks all the lacky, conspirators, the languid, and traitors. We can rise again and continue our march with the determination of honorable people and all our honorable sons.

Oman

Qabus Telephones GCC Leaders, Praises Victory

NC0103154491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Muscat, 1 Mar (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, made telephone calls to the heads of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus held a telephone conversation with Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah congratulating him on the liberation of Kuwait, thanks to the efforts and solidarity which are considered the nucleus of the new world order, a victory for law, and the fruit of efforts exerted within the framework of international legitimacy and the United Nations.

Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id also telephoned Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, last night to affirm the deep fraternal ties linking the sons of the GCC and the bonds of kinship which can never be severed.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus received a telephone call from Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, president of the 11th round of the GCC's Supreme Council, regarding this issue.

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From UK's Major

NC0303123091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0924 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Doha, 3 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has received a written message from British Prime Minister John Major. The message was delivered by British Ambassador Graham Hugh Boyce during his meeting with Shaykh Khalifah today.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported that the message deals with new developments in the region following Kuwait's liberation, ways of establishing the necessary foundations to establish lasting security and stability in the region and sparing it the dangers of a repetition of what happened, and attaining a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

From Japanese Premier

NC0203112391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Doha, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir received the message from Haru Hanawa, Japan's ambassador to Qatar, when they met today.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reports that the message deals with relations between the two countries, ways of bolstering and promoting them, and a number of issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Meets Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

LD0403115791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Mar (SPA) - His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister,

minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received at his palace at noon today Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait. During the meeting they discussed issues of mutual interest, stemming from the fraternal relations which link the two fraternal peoples.

Foreign Minister Receives French Official

LD0303230591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal received in Riyadh's Palace of Congresses this evening Michel Charasse, France's minister delegate of budget, who handed his royal highness a message for King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, from French President Francois Mitterrand. Ambassador Ma'mun Kurdi, head of the (?cultural committee), and the French ambassador to Saudi Arabia attended the meeting.

Defense Minister Receives UK Counterpart 3 Mar

LD0403042191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received this evening in his office British Defense Secretary Tom King and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The British defense secretary arrived in Riyadh earlier today. He was received at the airport by Uthman Humayda, assistant defense minister for military affairs, a number of Armed Forces officers, and the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Prince Al-Faysal Meets Ethiopian Counterpart

LD0203145191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1405 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, met in his office this morning with his excellency the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Ethiopian Democratic Republic, Mr. Tesfaye Dinka, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, they reviewed the current situation in the Arab Gulf region, the two countries' bilateral relations and ways of developing them. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Leaves for Damascus Meeting

LD0403202591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Mar (SPA)—The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, this evening left Riyadh for Damascus to attend the second meeting on coordination and cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, and the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is due to open in Damascus tomorrow, Tuesday.

The foreign ministers of the GCC countries also left Riyadh on their way to Damascus for the same purpose. [passage omitted]

King, Ozal Discuss Gulf, Relations By Phone

LD0103235591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1707 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from Turkish President Turgut Ozal expressing his pleasure at the coalition forces' success in liberating Kuwait from the occupation forces of the ruler of Baghdad, Saddam Husayn.

The two men also discussed ways to bolster relations between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the Turkish Republic, and carried out a comprehensive review of the factors contributing to the stability of security and the establishment of peace among all the Arab and Islamic countries.

Crown Prince Chairs Cabinet Meeting 4 Mar

LD0403163191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1351 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 4 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, chaired a Cabinet meeting this afternoon, Monday, 4 March 1991, at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

Following the meeting, Saudi Minister of Information 'Ali al- Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: His royal highness the crown prince, may God protect him, opened today's meeting with an extensive statement in which he started by thanking God for the abundant and uncalculable good He has bestowed on this country and its people.

He added that the success achieved, thanks to God Almighty, was due to the wise leadership, the sound decisions and the bold decisive stand taken by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. All this has led to the realization of the objective which established justice and entrenched international legitimacy, namely, the liberation of Kuwait from the forces of the oppressor and aggressor, the ruler of Iraq. We are extremely happy, he said, to see the fraternal Kuwaiti people return to their dear homeland.

The recent events have proven the strength and firmness of the Saudi Armed Fores, with all its branches, and the high level of their combat capability as manifested in all the air, naval, and land battles the forces fought in the various fields of operation Desert Storm.

Undoubtedly the effective participation, for which we are thankful, of the forces of the fraternal and friendly countries that supported our Armed Forces in their defensive mission have played a major and important role in the

success of the Kuwait liberation operations and the lifting of injustice from the shoulders of its sons. [passage omitted]

After the statement the Council of Ministers discussed local matters on its agenda and listened to the views and proposals of the ministers concerned with these matters and adopted all necessary decisions regarding them. It also referred some matters to the General Committee for further study and drawing up in their final form. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Said Executed for Possessing Arms

NC0403194691 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] The Saudi authorities have executed by beheading in public, and without trial, a number of Palestinians residing in Riyadh after being accused of possessing arms and explosives.

Our correspondent has said that, in this regard, the Organization of the Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula [munazamat al-thawrah al-islamiyah fi al-jazirah al-'arabiyah] has announced that a number of Palestinians residing in Riyadh were executed on 1 February after the Friday prayers in that city.

Press Comments on Meeting, Iraqi Agreement

LD0403080391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0305 GMT 4 Mar 91

[From the Press Review]

[Summary] Riyadh, 4 Mar (SPA)—Saudi press published today, Monday, continues to comment on the situation in the Arabian Gulf following the ending of the operation for the liberation of the State of Kuwait from "the clutches of the Iraqi aggression." The press refers to the results of the meeting yesterday between commanders from the coalition forces and an Iraqi military delegation regarding a cease-fire in the Gulf and the affirmation of the Iraqi regime's commitment to all the Security Council resolutions relating to the Iraqi invasion. In dealing with the situation in the Gulf, the papers stress that the realization of security and stability in the Arabian Gulf area is of great importance not only for the states of the region, but for all peace-loving states of the world.

"UKAZ" says the security in the area is of great importance to all countries of the area and the world and that the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers is very important, as it consolidates the security and stability of the area.

"Al-BILAD" says Iraq's acceptance of the conditions laid down by the victorious side represents the other side of the utter defeat of the Iraqi regime.

"AL-YAWM" says the agreement to release all prisoners and admission of responsibility for the losses in Kuwait and the countries of the area and the cancellation of measures regarding Kuwait by Iraq will reinstate matters and end the current situation in the Arabian Gulf.

"AL-MADINAH" compared the statements made by the handful of Arab leaders who supported the "tyrant of Iraq" in his aggression against Kuwait during the seven-month period in which the aggression continued with the statements currently being made. The paper ridicules the statements that those leaders have begun to reiterate, as if nothing has happened, and said: "Today, phrases and words are different now that those leaders have realized that their road companion—the tyrant of Iraq—has fallen into tragedy." The paper asks: "How can those leaders ask us to forget what they did during the seven months that represents the period of Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait?"

Papers View Aftermath of War, Criticize Saddam

LD0303134191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1249 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 3, SPA—A London-based Saudi newspaper in Arabic said today a vast assortment of inter-Arab upsets have afflicted the Arab nation in the past, but none more so than the recent Iraq-Kuwait imbroglio—whose serious repurcussions have given rise to harrowing tremors across the circumference of the entire globe.

"The world's future prospects may (or may not) look very bright at this particular juncture. One thing, however, is absolutely certain: There can be no future which is not based on the lessons of the past," said AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

"Recent Arab history is replete with crises and difficulties galore—and yet the Arab world has always surmounted all these difficulties," it added.

In an editorial entitled "Crime Sheet," AL-YAWM Arabic daily said diverse international institutions are now fully engaged in forming what is being clearly seen all over the world as the greatest and most comprehensive crime sheet in the annals of human history.

"Human rights violations—barbaric, bestial and heinous alike—viciously perpetrated 'ad infinitum' as well as 'ad nauseam' by that tyrant of tyrants—Saddam Husayn—are setting that crime sheet of his on fire. But that fire—far from blotting out an iota of his criminal offences—seems to serve as a veritable forest of glittering beacons illuminating all around them—especially that most inhuman of potential war criminals, that greatest scourge of humanity, that epitome of evil: Saddam Husayn.

"It is incumbent upon all right-thinking people, everywhere, to demand Saddam's summary trial and to insist on his deserved chastisement—with all the force at their command.

"One thing more, however, which cannot and (indeed) will not be bypassed— is the reckoning which must be fully imposed on all Saddam's criminal henchmen who have aided and abetted him in his criminal odyssey. All such henchmen, alongside their supreme mafioso, must pay the price in full," AL-YAWM said.

For its part, the English language RIYAD DAILY said another step towards a permanment peace in the Gulf is in the process of being taken.

"At the talks, Prince Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf are expected to be decisive on crucial issues—like the return of allied POW's—that will pave the way for a return to normalcy. For the sake of Iraq, it is better that Saddam Husayn does not adopt dillydallying tactics and takes a positive attitude. Any attempt to resort to any kind of ploy to gain time will doubtlessly be to the Iraqi dictator's detriment.

"Saddam Husayn has no choices now. He must comply with the U.N. resolutions, which the alllies are working hard to implement,' it said.

"What the United Nations and other members of the allied coalition desire is a permanent peace in this strategically important region. The security of all nations must prevail. All the nations of the region must coexist on the basis of equality and respect for each others' territorial integrity," RIYAD DAILY added.

Editor Questions Algerian Support for Saddam

LD0403134391 Riyadh SPA in English 1242 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 4, SPA—Under the title "The Gulf War Creator of the Future" the Algerian press agency headlined one of its leading articles. Commenting on this, the political editor of the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY [SPA] said: "With every passing day, the Algerian, Tunisian and Jordanian press agencies expose the shameful attitudes adopted by these nations among others in backing a tyrannical dictator who has brought dictator who has brought down sorrows and losses untold on his armies and his people, a tyrant who has thereby hastened his doom.

A dictator non compos mentis for his actions who bore down under cover of darkness on a small peace-loving nation only to rape her and pillage her without rhyme or reason. A rapacious dictator who in spite of all his heinous crimes yet found a number of other deranged states solidly behind him in full unequivocal support of his atrocious myriad acts of wholesale rape, pillage and blatant agonising torture.

Indeed we find it most germane to the issue to enquire of the Algerian Government the reason why it persistently continues on its forward way, embattled in the deep uncharted waters of uncertainty.

United Arab Emirates

President Phones Saudi King, Reviews Gulf Events

NC0103221091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2035 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Mar (WAKH)—This evening His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] phoned King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

During their telephone conversation, the two leaders expressed their happiness at the successful operations to liberate the fraternal State of Kuwait, the return of sovereignty to it, and the triumph of right over wrong.

The UAE president affirmed that the Gulf, Arab, Islamic, and international efforts which resulted in the complete liberation of the State of Kuwait should be viewed as a victory for the international community and mankind.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the latest developments in wake of the suspension of military operations and the situation in the region in the postwar stage.

This evening UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan also received a phone call from Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who congratulated him on the liberation of Kuwait. The two also discussed the latest developments in the region following the cessation of hostilities. Shaykh Zayid thanked the Pakistani prime minister for the spirit of solidarity and the role that Pakistan had assumed during the confrontation of the Iraqi aggression, the liberation of the State of Kuwait, and in enhancing regional peace and stability.

French Officials Arrive With Mitterrand Message On Regional Tour

NC0203073091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAKH)—French Budget Minister Delegate Michel Charasse and Thierry De Beauce, French secretary of state for international cultural relations, arrived here this morning on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of a tour of countries in the region.

The two French ministers are carrying a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE President, from French President Francois Mitterrand. The two ministers will also hold talks with senior UAE officials on the developments in the region following the liberation of Kuwait and the halt in the fighting between the joint troops and the Iraqi troops.

Deliver Message to Zayid

NC0203161091 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 2 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received today a message from French President Francois Mitterand dealing with the recent developments in the region in the wake of Kuwait's liberation and the efforts to boost security and stability in the region.

The message was delivered to Shaykh Zayid during a meeting with the visiting French ministers of budget and foreign affairs, Michel Charasse and Thierry de Beauce. [titles as received]

Discuss 'Durable' Peace

NC0203172091 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 2 (GNA)—The UAE [United Arab Emirates] and France today stressed the importance for attaining durable peace and stability in the Gulf after the liberation of Kuwait.

This came during a meeting between UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayd Al Nuhayyan and French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Thierry de Beauce [title as received].

Shaykh Hamdan expressed the UAE's appreciation for France's role in liberating Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation and supporting right and justice.

De Beauce said his country was determined to pursue efforts within the framework of the international community to establish security and stability in the Middle East.

The talks covered developments in the region and bilateral ties.

French Officials Depart

NC0203183291 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Mar 2 (GNA)—French Minister of Budget Michel Charasse and France's secretary of state for foreign affairs left for Saudi Arabia this evening after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The French officials delivered a written message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from French President Francois Mitterrand and also held talks with a number of UAE officials on bilateral relations and the current situation in the Gulf area.

Italian Defense Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0303233791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Mar (WAKH)—Italian Defense Minister Virginio Rognoni and his delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening.

He was received upon arrival by Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, commanders, a number of senior officers, and the Italian ambassador.

Defense Minister Meets Argentine Counterpart

NC0203113391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Dubay, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received Argentine Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez here today.

The UAE defense minister exchanged views with his Argentine counterpart on the strategic and military aspects of operation Desert Storm and the successful ground attack that was carried out by the coalition troops leading to the liberation of Kuwait. The Argentine minister congratulated the UAE defense minister on the [word indistinct] and positive role played by the UAE Armed Forces in the battle for the liberation of Kuwait. The Argentine minister expressed his government's satisfaction over the restoration of Kuwait's freedom and independence.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum praised the role of the sisterly and friendly troops that participated in bolstering and backing the position of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council against the aggression.

Zayid Receives Phone Call From Spanish King

NC0103154591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a telephone call from King Juan Carlos of Spain during which the king congratulated his highness on the liberation of Kuwait and its return to its legitimate owners. The king expressed complete satisfaction with the results that have been achieved and stressed that they will help strengthen the pillars of security and stability in the region in the coming phase.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid voiced gratitude and appreciation to the Spanish monarch for the constructive role his country played in the international efforts that helped achieve victory and return legitimacy to Kuwait.

They also discussed the latest developments after the cease-fire and the course of coming events.

Defense Ministry Issues Statement on Gulf War

NC0503080991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Dubayy, 4 Mar (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has asserted that his country's participation in the military operations to liberate Kuwait stemmed from its unflinching belief in standing against injustice, defeating tyranny, and in supporting and helping the injured party to retrieve his legitimate rights and fulfill his national duty.

In a statement he gave tonight on the occasion of the liberation of Kuwait and the UAE Armed Forces' participation in the military action, he held the Iraqi regime responsible for the start of war in the region because it rejected all peaceful solutions and all sincere appeals from various countries.

He praised the hard and honorable stand of the Gulf states, Arabs, and the world in support of Kuwait, defense of right, deterring the aggressor, and in consolidating international legitimacy. He said that eight UAE Armed Forces personnel answered the call of their Lord on Kuwaiti soil in defense of right and justice.

He congratulated the Gulf states and Arab and friendly forces that took part in liberating Kuwait on their sacrifices and acts of heroism.

He expressed his pain at the Iraqi people's and Army's huge losses, frustration, defeat, and humiliation caused by its regime. He noted that the UAE has been concerned about the safety of the Iraqi people and Army and had appealed to the Iraqi regime to save its country, people, and Army from the scourge of war and its destruction, but to no avail.

He asserted his country's readiness to stand by Iraq to help it transcend its current situation and move into a more stable life of more understanding and amicable ties; a life dominated by mutual respect in accord with the observed regulations, norms, and doctrines among countries and brothers. He pointed out that the past events in the region will not affect his country's firm principles and commitment to the pan-Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

Shaykh Muhammad Al Maktum said eight UAE soldiers were martyred and fourteen others wounded in action.

Editorial Says King Husayn Must Apologize

NC0203160491 Manama WAKH in English 1505 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 2 Mar (GNA)—Commenting editorially on the Jordanian monarch's speech yesterday, a UAE [United Arab Emirates] newspaper said: "King Husayn of Jordan has to clarify many things as long as he wants to make the Arabs and Muslims get rid of rancor."

The Abu Dhabi-based 'AL-FAJR' said "We agree with the meanings stated in King Husayn's speech of golden advices, but we hope he had justified his exposed attitudes during the Kuwaiti crisis on Arab and international levels."

The deplorable and unforgettable fact, the paper added, was the practical and political siding of the Jordanian monarch with the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

"Jordan was the first to violate the economic blockade (against Iraq) where thousands of trucks were heading daily to Iraq regardless of the international smuggling centres opened in Amman."

The paper noted that Jordan's assistance to Iraq was not confined to food and medicine only, but it went further to include weapons and ammunition.

"These things have to be clarified by King Husayn, because there will be no prejudice if he apologizes for his previous attitudes and if he realy wants to bury rancor."

"All Arabs and Muslims reject rancors and all dream of cordial relations based on confindence, but wounds have to be purged for the body to be cured," it concluded.

Envoy to Kuwait Departs To Resume Mission

LD0303133791 Riyadh SPA in English 1313 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 3, SPA—The ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Free Kuwait, 'Ubayd Khalifah al-Za'abi, left here today for Kuwait to resume his mission there.

Meanwhile, the commander of the UAE forces in the liberation of Kuwait operation, had hoisted on last Wednesday his country's flag on the UAE Embassy building in Kuwait, following cleaning of the building where mines and booby-traps, were laid by Saddam's forces.

Yemen

Volunteers To Aid Iraqi Reconstruction

EA0403230891 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] The general confederation of the trade unions of the republic's workers has declared its solidarity with and support for the brother workers, soldiers, and people of Iraq. In a statement issued today the confederation declared the solidarity of the Yemeni workers with their brother Iraqi workers with a view to setting right the destruction brought about by the aggressive war in the various towns, villages, and the economic, economic, educational and cultural and scientific establishments in Iraq.

The statement declared that the general confederation had arranged for the registration of volunteer experts in the field of repairs, construction, and bridge-building to participate with their Iraqi brothers in setting right the destruction brought about by the war. The statement said that such action was eloquent testimony in practical terms of the firm and principled positions taken up in the course of the clear political course pursued by the leaders, government and people of our country regarding the various fateful causes of our Arab nation.

Former Aden Premier Views North-South Tensions

PM0103152091 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Feb-5 Mar 91 pp 28-30

[Unattributed interview with 'Abd-al-Qawi Hasan Makkawi, secretary general of the Yemeni National Grouping and former prime minister of Aden; place, date not given: "Former Aden Prime Minister Tells AL-MAJALLAH: After False Promises We Expect Bloody War Between Northerners and Southerners"]

[Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] Yemen's economic conditions have worsened since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. What is the status of these conditions at the moment?

[Makkawi] Before unity there was an upswing in the economy and construction in Yemen. Immediately after the announcement of unity, however, the value of the southern dinar and the Yemeni riyal collapsed, hard

currency became nonexistent, imports from abroad ceased, and exports were hampered by farmers' concentration on growing khat, which brings a quick profit. Goods were also withdrawn from the market, prices increased more than five-fold, and supplies became scarce. Furthermore, stealing and looting spread as a result of the soaring prices and the centralization of security and administration in Sanaa. Signs of economic collapse started after the mass return of Yemenis who were working in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as a natural result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the political stances for which we cannot find any explanation or justification. The only way out of that dilemma is to prepare a fixed economic plan to remedy the dangerous situation logically and realistically.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Can you talk to us about the tide of unrest and bad conditions experienced by Yemen at present?

[Makkawi] One of the principal gains for the united state is the Constitution's stipulation of the freedom of opinion and party pluralism. We would like to exploit this politically in Yemen and to set it on the right road lest it become meaningless and merely a useless piece of paper unable to make any change in political conditions. With the worsening conditions, chaos, demonstrations, and unrest spreading through the country day by day with a view to getting rid of the regime that has broken promises and refused to abolish the law that preceded unity in the southern part of the homeland, restore properties to and politically rehabilitate national elements, and prepare the economic and social atmosphere and situation for the evicted Yemeni persons, who total some 1 million citizens from the South. This is in addition to their political leaderships.

We regard this as a fundamental and legitimate demand which the regime must implement before God and the homeland so that stability can be achieved and the law can prevail.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the differences that emerged in Yemen after the unity was signed?

[Makkawi] No one can deny the existence of differences and contradictions within the political leaderships of the united state as a natural result of the contrasts in the laws, constitution, and orientations of the two parts of Yemen. Before unity socialism and secular laws existed in the South. The constitution there was derived from Marxism and its ideologies that led to the nationalization process, the confiscation of properties and lands, and the single party system, which led South Yemen to economic ruin and bloody massacres, the latest of which occurred in the January 1986 incidents. The leaderships of the South continue to adhere to that policy and have still not abolished it, thus angering clerics, tribes, and intellectuals who fear that bloody experiment's move to the North, whose constitution was derived from the Islamic religion and Arab laws which we oppositionists seek to use with the other national elements faithful to their homeland, religion, and faith. This is the most important disagreement in the united state. It could lead to sinister consequences.

There are also differences over ambitions and aspirations between the North and the South. There are those who are lying in wait for others in order to eliminate them and seize power.

15 U.S. Prisoners, 20 Others Released to ICRC

NC0503115191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1139 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman had made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY: Iraq today completed handing over all prisoners of the forces that took part in the military operations against Iraq.

Yesterday Iraq handed 10 prisoners over to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. This morning it handed 35 prisoners over to the ICRC, including 15 Americans, 9 Britons, 1 Italian, and others.

Thus, the total number of all released prisoners is 45, representing all prisoners being held by the Iraqi forces.

[Dated] Baghdad, 5 March

Defense Minister, Senior Aides Reported Executed

NC0403191191 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Today's edition of the London-based newspaper AL-AHDATH cites what it described as well-informed sources that the death sentence was carried out last Thursday [28 February] on Iraqi Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Mahdi and two of his senior aides.

The paper says that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who gave the execution order, accused his defense minister and two aides of negligence in performing their duties and failing to prevent the U.S., UK, and French troops from advancing deep into Iraqi territories.

The paper says that the military orders currently issued in Baghdad are being signed by Staff Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, who is minister of heavy military industry [title as received] and son-in-law of the Iraqi president.

New Powers for Saddam's Relatives

LD0403192791

[Editorial Report] The (clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 4 March broadcasts a 2-minute report on the situation in Iraq citing information published by the London paper AL-AHDATH the same day. AL-AHDATH quotes "private sources" as saying that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has put part of the responsibility for Iraq's military defeat on the shoulders of his defense minister, Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Mahdi Tu'mah, and two of the latter's senior aides, the radio notes. The paper's sources say that Saddam Husayn issued orders for their execution, the radio adds, and the execution of Tu'mah and his two associates was reportedly carried out on 28 February. The report notes that the minister was accused of negligence and failure to prevent the allied thrust deep into Iraqi territory.

According to this report, military orders in Baghdad are now signed by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of military industries and son-in-law of Saddam Husayn. A state of alert has reportedly been declared as Saddam Husayn is fearful of anti-Ba'th Party activity. The radio goes on: "The paper also says that Barzan al-Takriti, brother of Saddam, has been appointed as martial law administrator, and he has been given absolute prerogatives to arrest and execute persons, civilian or military, suspected of being opposed to the authorities, or seeking to create fresh dangers to the regime." The radio concludes by noting AL-AHDATH's evaluation that Saddam's authority has been "shaken."

Decision To Return Seized Assets Announced

NC0503082391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command [of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party] yesterday. The conferees reviewed the developments in the political situation.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] has learned that in implementation of the approved UN Security Council resolutions, the Revolution Command Council decided to start returning the assets [al-mumtalakat] which the Iraqi authorities seized after 2 August 1990.

INA has also learned that instructions have been issued to the Foreign Ministry to convey this decision to the Security Council and the UN secretary general and to reach agreement with him on the necessary arrangements to implement this decision.

RCC Official Meets Maysan, Ba'th Party Officials

NC0403182291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has asserted that it is a great honor for the Iraqis to have a magnanimous, peerless, and courageous leader like leader President Saddam Husayn in such a phase of a renewable cultural and humane renaissance, in view of his leadership traits, unparalleled in this era, which made him win the admiration and love of his comrades and people and the gratitude of all virtuous sons of the [Arab] nation and the world. This came in an expanded meeting chaired by 'Izzat Ibrahim in the Wasit Governorate today. The meeting was attended by Wasit Governor Kazim Ni'mah, Maysan Governor 'Abdallah (?al-Mashhabani), the comrade secretaries of the commands of the Ba'th Party branches in Wasit and Maysan, the commander of the I Army Corps, and officials in charge of internal security in the two governorates.

'Izzat Ibrahim said that fairness, honor, and manliness require us as Iraqis to express our loyalty to, and deep belief in this great glory and deep-rooted tradition, and in its symbol—the leader of the march, under whose auspicious leadership we enjoy a standing envied by those near and far.

The RCC vice chairman added: Therefore, comrades, you must raise your awareness and determination to the level that corresponds to the requirements of the phase of major

challenges to keep the fire of the revolution glowing, to keep Iraq proud; and to keep the palm tress of Iraq towering, its water fresh, its sun rising, its mountains unshakeable, and its women dignified.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: Once again, comrades, I tell you that the state of great pride, embellished by this grand victory achieved against the most tyrannical forces of evil and crime in the world, is a great honor for us, but martyrdom for its sake is a greater honor.

During the meeting, the RCC vice chairman stressed the need to provide the necessary services and the production requirements for the sons of our great people.

The meeting was also attended by Comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and a number of comrade members of the [Ba'th Party] organization bureau.

'Aziz, PLO's Qaddumi Discuss Situation, Relations

NC0403193491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the developments of the situation in the area in the light of the aggressive escalation against Iraq, and bilateral relations of cooperation between Iraq and the PLO.

Nation Begins To Repair Baghdad, Other Areas

NC0403112491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1038 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—Work has begun to repair the damage caused by the barbaric U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. Special teams have begun rebuilding damaged bridges, including the 14 July Suspension Bridge.

AL-THAWRAH says that a special committee drawn from the relevant departments and ministries began their work today to repair damaged bridges in Baghdad and the governorates.

Returning to 'Normal'

NC0503082991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0729 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brother listeners: A few days after the end of fighting [words indistinct], with dedication and efficiency the Iraqis began to rebuild what the villain aggressors destroyed. Official authorities began to rebuild the bridges and reconstruct the roads damaged by the air and missile bombardment of Iraq. Life is returning to normal in many sectors; efforts to restore electricity to all of Iraq are under way; and work has begun to reactivate water and sewage networks. It is hoped that further services will be provided in the coming days.

Schools and kindergartens will reopen on the first day of next week, and normal life will resume in all fields. Official and popular committees began to control the market to maintain reasonable prices and ensure that all commodities are available to citizens.

This rapid endeavor to return life to what it was before the start of the aggression reflects a new challenge by the Iraqis, who have just come out of the most vicious war waged against them to date. It also shows that the Iraqis believe in the need to return glamour and familiarity to life with a view to obstructing the schemes of the aggressors, who wanted life in Iraq to come to a standstill. Every Iraqi, no doubt, is seeking this. Insistence on honorable and dignified life is characteristic of the brave Iraqis, and our endeavor to achieve development and progress is the lofty goal toward which we ought to direct all of our energy and resources. The future will continue to light our path as we continue this hoped-for construction process.

Paper: 'Struggle' Led by Saddam To Continue

NC0303122291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that throughout their long, militant history, the Iraqi people have witnessed numerous savage aggressions against their existence, renaissance, and potential. In today's editorial, the paper affirms that the outcome in every confrontation was contrary to what the enemies of the nation had planned. Throughout these periods, the results were not measured by traditional standards of the extent of sacrifices, the limits of the time and place of the confrontations, or the progress of the daily battles.

The paper notes: In the mother of battles, we were aware of the resources and abominable power which the evil enemies amassed, and the plans and calculations they made to strike at great Iraq and its base for progress in the scientific, economic, and military fields.

The paper adds that the lofty Iraqi people had the honor of confronting this rancorous plot. Their steadfastness and persistence had the greatest effect in placing limits on it and preventing the implementation of its other chapters.

The paper explains that Iraq has endured the hardships, accepted the showdown, and received tens of thousands of tons of bombs dropped by enemy aircraft and missiles on the homes of peaceful Iraqi people, their places of worship, shelters, schools, and centers of civilian life.

The paper emphasizes that the Iraqi Army played the major role in confronting and dealing with the aggression forces and in inflicting on them losses which will soon become public. The paper underlines the steadfastness of this army, which has not [as received] rejected humiliation, degradation, and the insulting of great Iraq.

The paper continues: Iraq entered this showdown strongly believing that the plans made by the enemies would not be fulfilled. The Iraqis have put up the greatest defense with the strength of their faith and have safeguarded the honor, dignity, and sovereignty of great Iraq.

The paper concludes: The showdown in the mother of battles confirmed that this people, blessed by God with awareness and faith, will not not bend before America, its arrogance, and its criminal policy toward independent, peaceful, and free peoples. The Iraqi people will continue the struggle against the enemies for the glory of the Arab nation under the banner of leader Saddam Husayn.

Paper Calls for 'Strong, United Internal Front'

NC0403141391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1044 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the Iraqi people, who are well aware of the plot aimed at destroying Iraq and terminating its existence—a plot which our Armed Forces succeeded in thwarting—will become even more adamant about securing a free and dignified life and will be more determined to speed up life's cycle as soon possible in order to wipe the scornful smiles off the faces of the Arab rulers who are the agents of the forces of aggression—such as Fahd and Husni.

In today's editorial, the mouthpiece of the Armed Forces writes: Our battle with the American-Atlanticist aggression has yielded many lessons which we must heed as we embark on rebuilding what the unjust aggression force has destroyed, so that the construction will be on sound and prudent foundations, because it has tangibly been proved that our enemy is inhuman and immoral. More than at any time before, this requires a strong, united internal front, since the task today is the defense of Iraq's existence—its present and its future.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The leadership has attached prime importance to this matter and has taken the necessary steps to rebuild what the aggression has destroyed. This will foil the plot's most important aspect—dealing a blow to Iraq—and will disappoint the satanic alliance when it sees with its own eyes how Iraq will rise like a phoenix through the arms of its sons after having foiled the attempt to harm its will, free political independence, and its national, pan-Arab decision. It says that the Iraqis, who have fought hard and stood fast, are more capable of continuing the epic struggle of building Iraq and protecting its security and achievements. They will never forget the extent of the plot carried out against them, but which broke on the rock of their defiant, legendary steadfastness against the mightiest tyrannical alliance in history.

It stresses that the heroic Iraqi Army is also fully prepared to thwart any treacherous attempt to harm Iraq's security and sovereignty. It stands at the highest levels of vigilance and alertness against any treacherous attempt to continue the plot or to harm any single inch of the beloved homeland's soil.

Talk Says Enemies Want Nation To Lose Confidence

NC0403151191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1302 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpts] O brothers in Iraq and in the Arab homeland: Among the aims of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy, which reached such a degree of antagonism, hatred, and arrogance so as to commit the crime of aggression and persist in it with barbaric means whose objectives and results have become known to everybody, is to make the Iraqis lose confidence in themselves and make the Arabs and Muslims lose confidence in their Iraq, the base of defiance and [word indistinct], its pioneering people, its valiant Army, and its struggling and couragous leader who does not fear anybody when it comes to matters of right, God, and Arabism.

The enemies of Iraq and the nation have noticed that one of the basic and strong assets in the Iraqi character and one of its most important pillars is self-confidence. The enemies also noticed and became certain that there is a line that has been running from the remote past to the present and will extend until the future to link generation after generation and one era after the other. [passage omitted]

The Iraqis here, regardless of the circumstances, cannot possibly listen to any voice other than the Iraqi voice. No comparison, analysis, or interpretation can rest on judgements that are dictated by trumpets whose origin and purpose are well known.

The national and pan-Arab conscience will remain the compass, the judge, and the one that could rank and give marks to the interpretations, revealing what is exaggerated, submissive, and feeble. True patriotism could identify the correct judgement and the correct interpreation. Yes. The Iraqis' confidence in themselves is the constant pillar for any advance, edifice, and position. Their witness is history and the present that longs for the future, God willing.

Arabs Urged To Fulfill 'Historic Duty'

NC0403225891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1931 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Numerous hypocritical Arab rulers made a daily practice of heaping abuse on imperialist and Zionist circles. They did this easily and made it seem as simple as making statements about Arab solidarity and joint Arab action and expressing their desire for Arab unity. When the actual showdown for the sake of the Arab nation's interests and goals and its rights usurped by these aggressive circles took place, however, we found these hypocritical rulers united not against the circles they had vilified but against noble Arab Iraq. We also found other alleged advocates of solidarity and those who raised its slogans quick to reveal their American identities and their ties to the departments of rancor and aggression.

It became clear that these and the others are more ungodly and hypocritical and more rancorous against Iraq. This is because Iraq has raised the banner of liberation and pursued the goals of its nation with determination and strong will and without hesitation and weakness.

When the true nature of the hypocrites and the traitors—the rulers of Damascus, Cairo, Riyadh, [words indistinct]—was exposed, everything became clear and the Arab citizen was able to see the true situation, without alterations, slogans, or high-sounding phrases. This honorable, pure-hearted, pure-minded Arab citizen today faces a responsibility greater than in any recent days, months, or years in defining his positions and mobilizing all his resources to confront this abnormal state of affairs in the Arab body. Astonishment, surprise, or hesitation over any matter or any incomprehensible situation can no longer absolve him of his historic responsibility.

Two contradictory trenches exist today vis-a-vis the forces of hatred, crime, aggression and the circles of hegemony, expansion, and old- and new-style imperialism. It has become the historic duty of every gallant and noble Arab before God, the nation, the Arab people, and the free people of the world to bear his part of this great responsibility. This role demands reinforcing the trenches of struggle which the Arab strugglers dug with bare hands throughout the years of confrontation which the Arab homeland has witnessed against colonialists, the plunderers of its wealth, and the usurpers of its rights.

The true and genuine struggle deepens the division between the two opposing trenches in the Arab nation. The mother of all battles and the clear facts it has uncovered embody the features of the new Arab era. Through its steadfastedness, bravery, and glorious defense of the freedom and independence of its will, and through the unique sacrifices it made in this battle, Iraq has provided a substitute for hesitation and delay and shortened the long waiting period with a few months of sacrifice, efforts, patience, and (?fighting). It has thus provided a better opportunity for shouldering the responsibility of the new Arab situation for those who seek this noble objective.

There is a race today between the sons of the glorious nation and its enemies and adversaries inside and outside the Arab homeland. This is a difficult race, but it will not last very long. All the forces of evil, rancor, and aggression supporting the traitors will not be able to end this race in their favor, and in the favor of their agent, unless the honorable sons of the nation choose the path of submission, retreat, and humiliation—but this is not the way our honorable sons behave and will never be.

The Arab nation, which is rich in resources and in struggling and free men, is the more enduring and stronger side. It has often surprised its sons and the world with its victories and strength. Iraq, which opened the doors to a new renaissance for Arabs and Muslims through the efforts and struggle of its sons, will remain in its chosen trench. It will continue to pursue its sublime principles and stubbornly insist on defeating all the covetous and rancorous and on removing the traitors and hypocrites from the path of true jihad, the path of liberation, justice, and independence. God is with Iraq as long as Iraq is the leader of the nation of strugglers supporting right and justice and reaping the fruits of sacrifice.

'Conspiracy' Against National Unity Viewed

NC0403234691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2137 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, when we said the conspiracy of the United States and its allies and agents in the region is a major one, we based this statement on a number of facts which can no longer be ignored by anyone, including those [words indistinct] who believed there was some exaggeration in what we were saying and (?thinking about). The goals of the conspiracy have now become clear to everyone; namely, striking at Iraq's growing power and finding various pretexts to disturb Iraq's security and national unity.

Iraq, by withdrawing from Kuwait, wanted to deny its imperialist and Zionist enemies an opportunity to pursue their base aims and goals, but subsequent events have exposed the magnitude of the conspiracy and its ultimate objectives, which are not limited to the demands announced by the coalition of the evildoers, but also seek the destruction of all the national achievements registered by the people of Iraq throughout their long militant history.

Despite all this, no Iraqi or sincere Arab has any doubt that Iraq's independence and free national decisionmaking and national unity [words indistinct] will never be open to bargaining with them, because the Iraqis will defend all the achievements that are related to their existence and life itself. They will defend them with their souls and with all they hold dear. The enemies and their cowardly agents will discover that they are banging their heads against a brick wall, on which their wooden swords and (?foolish) dreams will be broken. Iraq—its heroic people and struggling [mujahidah] leadership—will remain alert to all attempts targeting the pride and glory [words indistinct]. This, brothers, demands we remain what the world knows us to be—great men, who are never deterred by their detractors from speaking the truth and who rise to the level of these difficult circumstances, in which the enemies and the malicious ones are rushing madly upon our homeland and nation. God is great. Glory and pride be to our great Iraq and mujahid people.

Commentary Criticizes New U.S. 'World Order'

NC0503115491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1028 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the U.S.-Zionist-Atlanticist aggression was not only aimed at destroying Iraq, killing its legitimate aspirations, and breaking its national will, but also at conveying a message to every other Third World country telling it to remain behind the red lines drawn for it and never to consider overstepping these lines. Otherwise, the country would be subjected to the same savage destruction inflicted on Iraq. The Third World, therefore, has to remain a third world in everything. It does not deserve progress [words indistinct]. Rather, it should be satisfied with the crumbs offered by these masters as aid and

assistance. The new world order Bush is promoting can tolerate only one master—the United States—and a number of followers and stooges, which are the developed industrial countries. As for the others, they are only subjects who wait for what the master grants and what the followers give with the knowledge and agreement of this master.

Thus, the Third World, including the Arab nation, should remain a mere source of raw materials and a market for the exports of the master and followers. The Third World should not achieve any more progress than it is allowed to. Moreover, this progress should not disrupt the equations they have drawn. Otherwise, such a country would be violating the world order and rebelling against its masters, thus committing a great folly for which it would deserve the severest punishment and be subject to the same savage destruction inflicted on Iraq.

Based on this concept, Iraq's battle represents the battle of the Third World; in fact, the battle of the entire world. It is the battle of the free, independent will which every country of the world has the right to enjoy. This is because the sole master of the world gives himself the right even to intervene in other countries' internal affairs, define the shapes of their ruling regimes, and decide the level of progress allowed to them. However, those who drew up this new world order did not learn from the lessons of history. The world cannot be turned into a single kingdom governed by one absolute ruler. Such a ruler should expect continuous confrontations and the emergence of new powers and new alliances. He may manage to destroy some of these powers, but he cannot destroy them all. This means that the world is expecting more conflicts, wars, and disasters.

The world is looking for a new world order that makes peoples and nations equal; a fair order under which all states are treated on an equal footing and under which the strong does not seize the rights of the weak nor the rich control the life of the poor. Rather, under such an order all should seek the judgment of international committees free of hegemony, as well as international laws that allow no more than one interpretation and whose meaning cannot be twisted to the liking of the [word indistinct] masters. Such an order differs from the order Bush wants to impose on the world. It is not the order on the pretext of which he attacked Iraq. It is a completely different order.

'Powerful Explosions' Reported in 'Central' Cities

LD0503111791 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Ilam, March 5, IRNA—Several powerful explosions in Iraq were repeatedly heard in Meimak region in this border province early Tuesday morning. Quoting sources stationed in western border regions, IRNA correspondent here reported that the sound of huge explosions in the central Iraqi cities were heard repeatedly around midnight local time [2000 GMT] Monday as a result of which the region was rocked. According to the sources, the explosions might have occured in Iraq's major central cities, the other side of the border. Cause of the explosions is not yet known and no smoke appeared on the Iraqi sky after the exlosions. Since the establishment of the cease-fire between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational forces last Wednesday, this was the first time that explosions were heard every 20 minutes beginning midnight Monday till 02:15 local time Tuesday (22:45 GMT Monday).

Lebanese Radio Reports Fighting in Baghdad

NC0503101991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1005 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Conflicting reports are being received about developments in Iraq. However, it is now certain that the disturbances are spreading from one city to another and from one region to another.

According to the latest reports, Baghdad is the scene of exchanges of fire between supporters and opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

A spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq said al-Najaf fell under the control of the uprising against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He added that the city residents captured the Ba'th Party centers and that some units of the Armed Forces have joined them. He said demonstrations are now taking place in Karbala', which has also been brought under control of the uprising.

IRNA Reports Two 'Holy Cities' 'Fallen'

LD0503095491 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—The two holy cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf in Iraq have fallen into the hands of the people, Iraqi opposition sources said here Tuesday morning.

The spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) told Iran [as received] on telephone that based on reports coming from Iraq, al-Najaf was taken over by people Monday afternoon and Karbala' Monday evening.

The spokesman also claimed that an armoured brigade of the Presidential Guard along with their munitions including 30 tanks joined the people in the Iraqi city of al-'Amarah.

He added that the anti-regime demonstrations have spread to the capital city of Baghdad and several government officials have been killed. He declined to give further information.

"Unrests and disturbances have also spread to northern Iraqi cities," he said.

Shiite Insurgents Take Al-Najaf

NC0503072291 Paris AFP in English 0645 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 5 (AFP)—The holy city of al-Najaf, south of Baghdad, has fallen to Shiite insurgents, a spokesman for an Iraqi opposition group said here Tuesday.

On Monday the head of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, had already claimed the fall of four other towns—Iraq's second city Basra, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah and al-Samawah—to the rebels.

Al-Najaf is home to the tomb of 'Ali, the first imam of Shiism.

'Revolutionary Forces' Raid Basra Food Warehouses

LD0403145791 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Shalamcheh, Khuzestan Prov., Mar. 3, IRNA—Iraq's revolutionary forces have reportedly broken into army foodstuff warehouses in Basra and distributed the food supplies among the people.

According to an Iraqi refugee, who identified himself as Oud Jalil Sekar [name as received] from al-Tannumah, the status of food supply in Basra was better than in other Iraqi cities because of the action of the revolutionary forces.

Referring to the escalation of a popular uprising throughout Iraq, Sekar said the Iraqi people wanted an Islamic system of government to be established in their country.

He also claimed the multi-national forces were handing over the corpses of Iraqi soldiers killed during the war to the people of Basra in order to be buried.

The refugee, who has crossed to Iran through a southern Iranian border crossing on foot, said he had seen many old men and women as well as children moving towards Iran's southern border with Iraq on foot.

General Said Assassinated, Killer Linked to Saddam

PM0503105391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 2 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report from "Do You Know?" column]

[Text] Do you know that Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abbas, commander of the Iraqi ground forces, has been assassinated in Basra, and that the assassination operation was carried out by one his aides who holds the rank of staff colonel and belongs to al-Tikrit's party elements linked to the presidential establishment?

Paper Reveals Saddam's Holdings in S. America

PY0103220091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2033 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Milan, Italy, 1 Mar (EFE)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his al-Takriti clan have properties in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile which were purchased over the last few years with the tacit approval of the local governments, according to the Italian weekly IL MONDO. IL MONDO today issued an advance on information it will publish on 4 March which will reveal that the personal wealth of Husayn and his clan totals $25 billion.

The weekly said the al-Takriti family has bought properties in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile through several financial organizations, some of which have their headquarters in Brazil.

The political-economic weekly IL MONDO reported that the real estate was purchased in the Latin American countries over the past few years with the tacit approval of the local governments, with which Husayn has maintained close commercial relations.

But Husayn's real fortune—worth about $10 billion—is deposited in the most important Swiss banks. The fortune was reportedly obtained through a parallel financial system: a heavily indebted official economy (more than $80 billion in 1988), and a clandestine economy. The Italian weekly said the master key to this secret activity was some kind of 5 percent royalty withheld on every oil sale. The key organization is INOC, the state oil company.

The properties were purchased directly by Husayn and his closest aides, but the financial heads of the regime are al-Takriti, the official Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, and Oil Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan.

Free Iraq Radio Interviews Syrian Defense Minister

LD0203215491 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Interview with Major General Mustafa Talas, Syrian defense minister, by unidentified correspondent, place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [announcer] Dear listener: We continue our encounter with Major General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense in the Syrian Arab Republic. We present it to you from the Radio of the Iraqi Republic, from Baghdad, the Voice of Free Iraq.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Maj. Gen. Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense of the Syrian Arab Republic. Would you kindly tell us why Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn stood on the side of Saddam Husayn in his war, his tyranny, his wrongdoing, in his killing of the Iraqi people, and finally in the occupation of the State of Kuwait?

[Talas] First I will start with the position of the chairman of the PLO. Yasir 'Arafat was wrong in his position with Saddam Husayn. He should have taken up, or followed the example of, our brothers in Algeria. The Algerians, when we asked them to come and take up with us this political position, apologized and said: You are Arab brothers. You are today fighting with each other but will be reconciled tomorrow; let the Algerian Liberation Front alone. We must have special and excellent relations with the Arab states; we do not want to be a party to any problems of yours. By this, the Algerian revolution gained the respect of all the Arabs, from the Ocean to the Gulf.

As for Yasir 'Arafat, he has always fuelled fire and discord in disputes between Arabs, from his position in September [1970] in Amman, to his intervention in Lebanon, and

then his latest intervention in Kuwait. His business has always been to fuel the fire of dissension. He does not remain neutral. Naturally, I call his position with regard to the al-Sabah family as betrayal itself. The al-Sabah were the ones who cared for the Fatah movement at the beginning of its emergence; they had done him favors. He has dropped a stone in the well from which he has drunk. He has also harmed all Palestinians who were offered shelter, fed, and given nationality status by Kuwait. He has caused harm even to the sons of his people, the Palestinians. What was his business with Iraq? What was his business? Would one believe that so many missiles dropped by Saddam on Israel would, just like that, liberate Palestine? Was that the way to do things?

We say that whoever wanted to liberate Palestine should have come to the commander of the strongest army on the Palestinian front. He should have come to Hafiz al-Asad, and said to him: I want to liberate Palestine. Then Saddam Husayn and we would have been together in the liberation of Palestine. But laughing at the world, and laughing, naturally, at simple people in the first place! I would say that people who think are not taken in by his deception. The first to expose the game of Saddam on this subject was the Soviet chief of staff. He said: He will fire several missiles at Israel to shuffle the cards; be very careful, Saddam's aim is to shuffle the cards, and not the liberation of Palestine. Thus Yasir 'Arafat's position, with his absolute support for Saddam Husayn, was a serious mistake that has caused harm to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat wants the international community to help him. Good, how can the international community help him? It would say to him: You have supported Saddam Husayn in his invasion. How, then, are we going to say to Shamir that he should not invade Jordan, the West Bank, and Gaza, given that you have supported Saddam Husayn's invasion of the city of Kuwait, the independent state which existed even before Iraq? Why did you support this invasion? He has thus also lost at the international level.

The Fatah movement was born in Kuwait and was nurtured by the al-Sabah family, but Yasir 'Arafat directed a perfidious stab at them. On a personal level, I know that some ambasadors of the State of Kuwait are of Palestinian origin. How then? If Kuwait uses an ambassador to represent the state with a nationality other than Kuwaiti nationality, it means that the State of Kuwait does not differentiate between one Arab and another Arab. That was a serious mistake made by Yasir 'Arafat. He was promoted by his own personal egoism. Now, I believe, he has lost on the international scene, and no longer has the respect of anyone. We in Syria say to our Arab brothers: We were the first to expose to you Yasir 'Arafat, and we were the first to convey to him: You are a person who is unwelcome in Syria; get out of this country.

We—President al-Asad—removed arms from the Army staff, from the guard. He said to me: Are you afraid, Abu Firas? I told him: I am not afraid, I am next to you; I am not afraid—because President Asad's room was next to mine, and (?he was) minister of defense. He said to me: All the heavy weapons, give them to Yasir 'Arafat. That was in September 1970. We removed all the heavy weapons from the Army staff, and only rifles remained in the Army staff. All the heavy machine guns we had, we gave them to Yasir 'Arafat, so as to defend with them his group in Jordan. As for Saddam Husayn, there were six Iraqi brigades, but they did not donate one bullet on orders from Saddam Husayn. Not one Iraqi tank moved to help them. We went in, and a fresh war nearly broke out between us, as Nixon wrote in his memoirs. A war was about to break out in the region because of the intervention of the Syrian Army, when we went in with our tanks and brave soldiers to support the Palestinian revolution in the region of Irbid. President Asad was leading the battle to protect the Palestinian resistance.

We say to our brothers in Kuwait that just as he ['Arafat] has bitten your hand, which offered him good, so has he also bitten the hand of President al-Asad. He never respected any of the support given by Syria to the Palestinian revolution.

One word remains about the position of King Husayn. In reality, King Husayn has been a great friend of mine for years, but I say to him too, reproachfully, that he made a big mistake. Given that he has been king for more than 30 years, he should not have made this error. If he wants [words indistinct], good, then let King Husayn relinquish his throne and give it to Iraq, without fighting. So long as the Jordanian brothers are cheering, beating drums, and clapping hands for Saddam Husayn, then we say: Let Jordan unite with Iraq. But why do you support the invasion of Kuwait, and do not support unity with Baghdad?

Our brothers in Jordan every day beat drums and play trumpets, saying: Bravo, Saddam, you have occupied Kuwait. Well then, you brothers—you have a difficult economic situation, and we [words indistinct], because we consider Jordan to be the south of Syria. You know Syria [words indistinct], from Aqba to Mosoul to Iraq, used to be one country. We were not...[changes thought] It was colonialism that divided us. You like Iraq, you King Husayn, and your people like Iraq—then join Iraq, and we would all be happy then.

First you would thus have settled your economic problem, and then [words indistinct]. Kuwait then would have been prepared to offer you assistance to [words indistinct]. But if they want to support him in the occupation of Kuwait, thinking that this would serve the Palestinian issue, never. This will never serve the Palestinian issue. The occupation by an Arab country of an Arab country does not serve the Palestinian cause. It harms the Palestinian cause, and harms all the feelings of Arab unity. We must learn the lesson from Kohl, the German chancellor, how East Germany was warmly welcomed; they welcomed it with chants, not with tanks. They did not advance with tanks. Kohl did not come to East Germany with his tanks. No, those in the East came to him.

Likewise Saddam Husayn, if he wanted Kuwait to come to him, ought to have set up a real democratic regime in Kuwait. [sentence as heard] But when a Kuwaiti sees that every day an Iraqi is killed, that his defense minister is killed, that his uncle's son is killed, that the dearest person to him is killed, then how can he be reassured to be with you, Saddam? It is impossible for any reasonable person to accept being with Saddam Husayn in any fashion, as he could not be reassured about his person, his future, or his children. Evidence of this is the fact that not a single Kuwaiti accepted cooperation with Saddam.

For your information as well, there were Palestinians who volunteered in the resistance against Saddam Husayn. When a Kuwaiti reproached them, saying: At first you supported the Iraqi invasion, they said to them that the injustice of Saddam Husayn is one thousand times greater than that of the al-Sabah family: If we believe that there was injustice from the al-Sabah family, then the injustice of the al-Sabah was 1,000 times less than Saddam's injustice; they are 1,000 times more clement than Saddam Husayn. Saddam Husayn has put the Iraqi Army in a difficult situation. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Lt. Gen., the last question, please. How do you see the future of Iraq and the Arab Gulf?

[Talas] I believe that the agreement concluded between Syria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the states of the Arab Gulf, and Egypt—this group forming eight Arab states—nine states—no, they form eight Arab states—they form an appropriate platform for us to work within the Arab League. We do not want to set up axes. We want to protect ourselves, to protect ourselves from any foreign invasion, and even Arab invasion, should Saddam Husayn or anyone in the future think to play the dirty game played by Saddam Husayn. The existence of these eight states within the Charter of Arab League—if we can develop the charter of the Arab League—can, with our own capabilities, form a strong army that would secure peace. We do not need any foreign forces to protect the Arab region.

We can protect ourselves by ourselves. I believe that the future will be radiant, and God willing, Kuwait will be reconstructed. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Calls For Further Resistance

LD0403113191 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—In the wake of the Islamic and popular uprising in several Iraqi cities and the fall of the port- city of Basra to the hands of the Iraqi Muslim Mujahidin, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojatt ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim issued a seven-point statement here Monday.

The SAIRI head appreciating the 'jihad' of the Iraqi people in Basra and other Iraqi cities, said that the jihad of the Iraqi Muslim nation is the best criterion for the Iraqi nation in determining their future [words indistinct] and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the country.

The Iraqi opposition leader also described the uprising in the Iraqi cities as a sign of the will of the Iraqi people and said the large number of Iraqi POW's in the Persian Gulf war was an indication of the opposition of the Iraqi army to the war.

The hojatt ol-Eslam appealed to the Iraqi army units to join the nation in their popular [words indistinct] which are issued to the detriment of the nation.

Al-Hakim called on Saddam Husayn to quit power and asked the Iraqi Security Service and what is known as the 'Popular Army' to join the nation before being too late.

Stressing that the Iraqi nation will decide their own fate, he warned against efforts to impose certain political system on the country.

Lauding the valiant people of Iraq especially inhabitants of Basra, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Kut, al-Samawah and other southern cities, he called on the people to further their unity and resistance and try to make the government and army personnel join their ranks.

Uprising Said To Be Popular, Has No Outside Link

LD0403152991 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 4 IRNA—What is happening in southern Iraq is an internal and national uprising by the people, and no one except the people themselves are directing it, Iraqi opposition leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim said here today.

Speaking at a private meeting with several personalities from other Iraqi opposition parties and organizations, al-Hakim said no one from outside Iraq had any direct link with the uprising.

He was apparently rejecting some news agency reports that the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) was behind the current uprising in Iraq.

However, al-Hakim who chairs the Assembly, did not deny the link between the Iraqi Muslim nation and the Islamic opposition leadership.

The Iraqi religious leader elsewhere repeated his call to Saddam Husayn and the ruling clique in Iraq to give up power and delegate it to national committees generating from the people's uprising.

Hakim said it was not unlikely for Saddam's forces to join the American and Western forces in checking the uprising in the towns of Basra, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Samawah, which he said was now spreading to al-Kut.

Some demonstrations have been staged in the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala' as well as in the capital, which Hakim said were countered by the government forces.

Stressing that security and peace will not be maintained in Iraq and in the region without considering the Iraqi people's will and vote, al-Hakim called on Syria, Jordan, Turkey and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council to actively support the Iraqi nation.

Noting that the Iraqi regime's forces will be confused if another front is opened in Iraq's Kurdistan, al-Hakim said this would probably compel them to use chemical weapons before the eyes of those claiming support for the human rights.

Al-Hakim called on the Iraqi Kurdish combatants to quickly organize a popular uprising in northern Iraq to strengthen the uprising in southern Iraq.

Meanwhile, al-Hakim told another gathering today that Iraqi Muslims are in control of Basra, and have inflicted some losses on the Iraqi armoured units during a confrontation.

On the role of SAIRI in leading the movement of the Iraqi people, al-Hakim said the Assembly was a popular organization similar to a parliament, and that Iraqi people believe in its leadership.

In his assessment of the future of the Iraqi regime, he said the future of Iraq will be determined by elections, and that the will of the Iraqi people should be highly respected.

Rejecting the establishment of a provisional government or any other plan aimed at Iraq's partitioning, al-Hakim stressed the territorial integrity of that country.

Kurdish Uprising Reported in North

NC0403190691 Paris AFP in English 1838 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Paris, March 4 (AFP)—Kurds in northern Iraq have triggered 50 uprisings against security forces and President Saddam Husayn's Ba'th party since last Wednesday, a Kurdish opposition group said Monday.

"We did not wait for Shiites in their southern strongholds to take advantage of the chaos prevailing in northern towns that are still dominated by the government", Burhan Jof, a senior member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), told Agence France-Presse in London.

Mr. Jof was referring to Shiites, the dominant of the two great Muslim sects, in Basra, Iraq's second city, where anti-Saddam Husayn violence has been reported.

Mr. Jof said people in northern Iraq had taken to the streets before any KDP call to rise.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad al-Hakim, a leader of Iraqi Shiites, called on the Kurdish population from Iran on Monday to "organize a popular uprising as soon as possible" to open a new front against Mr. Husayn in northern Iraq.

Kurdish aides here said however that Kurds were wary of open hostilities as they were fearful of another crackdown "such as the 1988 chemical attack against Halabjah", a northeastern Iraqi border town where Iraqi troops ruthlessly gassed some 5,000 Kurdish men, women and children.

Kurds, who claim they were cheated of an independent homeland after World War I, have said that they want to be included along with the Palestinians in any search for a comprehensive Middle East settlement after the Gulf war.

In recent weeks about 80,000 Iraqi deserters, most of them Kurds forcibly enrolled into the army, had fled to northern Iraq controlled by Kurdish guerrilla groups, according to Mr. Jof.

The Kurdish people are currently scattered over territory straddling Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Syria and the Soviet Union.

Kurds contributed to an Iraqi opposition platform set up in Damascus last December that called for the ouster of the Iraqi dictator.

Iraq's Kurdish movements who represent three million people claim that they were not seeking secession from Iraq but autonomy.

Iraqi opposition parties were set to meet in Beirut, possibly next week, according to Kurdish sources.

Muslim Cadre Leader on 'Popular Uprising'

NC0403192991 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] The third meeting of the Iraqi Muslim cadres began in Tehran today in the presence of a number of members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI]. Our correspondent has reported that a number of the Supreme Council members spoke at this meeting. SAIRI President Hojjat-ol Eslam Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim then addressed the meeting and said five governorates, including al-'Amarah, al-Basrah, and al-Nasiriyah, [as heard] are witnessing a popular uprising by the citizens, and that the popular forces may in the near future be able to take control of all of the mentioned governorates.

Al-Hakim added that the Iraqi security forces, which had opposed the Iraqi people's movement, have shown a desire to join the popular uprising.

Iraqi Opposition Forces Detailed

NC0403202191 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Nicosia, March 4 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition forces, based mainly in Syria and Iran, group Islamic organizations, secular political parties and the Kurds.

The leading Islamic body is the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), operating out of Tehran and headed by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

Ayatollah al-Hakim on Monday said SAIRI, which seeks the establishment in Iraq of an Iran-style Shia Muslim leadership, functioned as a "parliament" and was not a political organization.

One of its components, the Islamic Action Organization, is based in Damascus and is led by Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Mudarissi.

Another clandestine Islamic group, Da'wat al-Islam (the call of Islam), was created in southern Iraq in 1970 and is considered close to the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movements.

Among the political parties are exiled members of the Iraqi branch of the Ba'th party, one of whose leaders, Hasan al-'Alawi, lives in Damascus.

Also in Damascus are representatives of socialist, communist, nationalist and Nasirite Iraqi opposition groups. The latter take their inspiration from former Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

There are two principal wings to the Kurdish movement, the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan under Mas'ud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani.

Delegates from 19 Iraqi opposition groups gathered in Damascus December 31 to draft a charter for the overthrow—militarily if necessary—of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Their platform was based on "respect for human rights, freedom and political pluralism, the reintegration of Iraq in the international community and the need to ensure progress in social, scientific, technological and economic domains."

Opposition Leader Reviews Anti-Saddam Movement

LD0503062691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0520 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpts] London, 5 Mar (SPA)—One of the most prominent Iraqi opposition figures, Dr. Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i [Da'wah Party] has revealed that the Iraqi regime will be removed very soon. In a statement to SPA made in London, he says that the demonstrations and the opposition in its various forms are no longer confined to Basrah and al-Samawah, but have spread to Kut and al-Amarah. He adds that al-Amarah has come under the control of the resistance movement and that the military forces have begun to join the people opposing the tyrant, Saddam. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about the television meeting that Iraqi television carried on 4 March, Dr. Muwaffaq says that information coming from Iraq confirms that it is a recorded tape and it did not take place on that day. Al-Rubay'i points out that the joint action committee composed of 17 groups in addition to the other Iraqi national forces will meet in Beirut on Sunday. He says that the conference will concentrate on three main points—political action, the political committee, and coordination with the states concerned with the Iraqi issue. It will also concentrate on the military action as northern Iraq, in Kurdistan, will be set ablaze and there will be an appeal to direct the forces to the south to tighten the control on the opposition in the south following the withdrawal of the coalition forces so that the governor of the Saddam Husayn regime will not return. [passage omitted]

Regarding the future in Iraq following the removal of Saddam, Dr. Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i says the general trend calls for the establishment of a provisional government for a period of one year that will work for two aims: to maintain security and stability in Iraq; and to prepare for general elections in which all factions of the Iraqi people will participate, pointing out that the regime will be a coalition. He adds that Iraq has its own specialities and therefore what has been said about establishing a pro-Iran government in the south is unfounded, owing to the composition of the Iraqi people—Arabs and non-Arabs, and Muslims and non-Muslims—and that Iraq has a special nature that differs from the others. Regarding the Iraqi Army and the weapons gathered by Saddam Husayn, he says that we do not need 1 million soldiers; all we need is a quarter or a fifth of that number to maintain security and the independence of Iraq. [passage omitted]

Opposition Call To Depose Saddam Reported

NC0503071991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] The Joint Action Committee of the Iraqi opposition forces issued a statement yesterday. It greeted the popular revolution against the president of the Iraqi regime. It demanded that this revolution continue and escalate until all of its goals are achieved. The statement praised the victorious uprising of the masses that was touched off to topple the regime plotting against the people and their principles and .deals, a regime that humiliated the army and people and destroyed their wealth, property, and establishments with its reckless, unilateral, and illegal positions and decisions that do not express the will of any Iraqi national political force.

The statement said: The president of the Iraqi regime has persisted and gone too far in his disdain for the lives of the Iraqi people and their future. He has destroyed all cultural and human establishments achieved by the Iraqi people.

It added: The popular revolution that touched off the sentiments of all segments of the people and political factions and moved their patriotic and principled emotions is a source of pride for our heoric people. It is a practical embodiment of their bright and historic positions throughout the stages of suffering and struggle. This revolution needs to escalate, develop, remain comprehensive, and continue until all the goals for which it erupted are achieved.

Opposition Said Demanding Islamic Government

LD0503110591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Two Iraqi teachers, who arrived in Iran via the land border of Shalamcheh with their families yesterday, said that the wave of people's opposition to the Iraqi Government has increased considerably in the last few days. They stressed: The slogans of the Iraqi people are Islamic and

the people demand establishment of an Islamic government in that country. They added that before coming to Iran they saw pro-government forces firing on the people of Basra. The Iraqi refugees, who came through Basra to reach Iran, also said: Clashes in the southern provinces, particularly in al-Basrah, were more intense yesterday compared with those on previous days.

Iraqi Salvation Movement Urges Saddam Overthrow

PM0103111391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Feb 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Statement to Iraqi Army From Iraqi Salvation Movement: Do Not Withdraw Like Sheep—Pounce on Him in His Hideout To Avenge Your Military Honor"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Iraqi Salvation Movement opposed to Saddam Husayn's regime has issued a statement signed by two of the movement's most prominent figures, Staff Major General Hasan al-Naqib, former commander of the Saladin Forces and deputy chief of staff of the Iraqi Army, and Talib al-Shabib, former Iraqi foreign minister.

The statement said: To our brothers and sons the commanders, officers, and ranks of the Iraqi Armed Forces who believe in God and the homeland.

From his mousehole hideout under reinforced concrete somewhere in Baghdad, criminal Saddam Husayn has most insolently and shamelessly claimed a historic victory for himself through the withdrawal from Kuwait, stressing that the 2 August aggression was an extension of a historical right and that the gates of Constantinople were not opened at the first Islamic attempt.

The delirium of that defeated dictator resounds loudly over the rubble and scattered corpses of victims in Iraq. The exhausted and isolated Iraqi Army listens with pain and grief to the voice of the person who certainly led it to the incinerator and miserable fate and then ordered it to withdraw in order to protect him and his clique from a miserable and humiliating end, and then, at the first opportunity, be the target of his death and terrible torture squads.

The Iraqi Army, which believes in God, the honor of the homeland, and the honor of men, refuses to obey the orders of the ignorant tyrant and will not withdraw like a sheep with its tail between its legs or chased like sheep in a slaughterhouse.

Today it is the honorable and manly duty of all the Iraqi Army commanders and ranks to disobey the orders of that false marshal, Saddam Husayn, turn their arms on him, raise their banners and swoop down on him in his hideout to salvage their military honor and eliminate from their land and people the tyranny of death, terror, and humiliation.

The people of Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations are watching with their eyes and their hearts in expectation of the declaration of utter mutiny against Saddam's regime and the declaration of a revolution that would march on and destroy him.

There is no room for delay, hesitation, apprehension, or fear.

The measures necessary for the organization of our ranks and the unification of our efforts are proceeding in God's care speedily and firmly, and you will be informed of what plans to follow. Victory for our Army and people in Iraq and death and shame for the vanquished coward Saddam Husayn. Farewell until we meet triumphantly in liberated Baghdad.

Diplomat Flees, Takes Secret Israeli Contacts File

PM2702154691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "It Is Said"]

[Text] It is being said that an Iraqi diplomat called 'Abd-al-Rasul 'Allush has fled to an Arab capital, carrying with him a file on secret contacts that he made with Israeli officials in a Western capital on direct instructions from Saddam Husayn.

Shamir on Crisis, Negotiations, Postwar Scenarios

*PM0403163891 Paris LE FIGARO in French
1 Mar 91 p 9*

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Pierre Rousselin—date and place not given]

[Text] [Rousselin] Following the end of hostilities in the Gulf, are you disappointed that Saddam Husayn has not been overthrown?

[Shamir] I am still waiting. I hope that we have not yet heard the end of the story....

[Rousselin] The Iraqi Army has collapsed. Why do you still regard Saddam Husayn as a threat?

[Shamir] While Saddam Husayn remains in power, he will seek opportunities to attack us. Perhaps not immediately, but next year or in five years time.... Saddam Husayn is still an enemy.

[Rousselin] What would it take to eliminate Saddam Husayn?

[Shamir] I have no advice to give the coalition. I know that the anti-Iraqi coalition leaders share my feeling. They are seeking the means which would enable them to end Saddam Husayn's power. I hope they will find a means of doing so.

[Rousselin] But if Iraq's military capabilities have been eliminated, why are you worried?

[Shamir] Saddam's army can be rebuilt. It would not be the first time that had happened in the contemporary history of the Arab world. We have often witnessed this kind of comeback. After Saddam, anybody can follow his example and try again in the hope of doing better. Many Iraqis think that their president's mistake was to involve the United States. They must think that, the next time, it would be much more effective simply to attack Israel.

[Rousselin] What will Israel's demands be regarding the countries and the enterprises that armed Iraq?

[Shamir] I do not think that any of them will do it again. At least I hope that will be the case in the immediate future. The governments that gave arms to Iraq will now be more determined to stop him. But the danger still exists. If Saddam succeeds in staying in power, he will be regarded as a hero. Despite this devastating war, despite all his defeats, the people in the region will continue to regard him as a hero.

[Rousselin] Do you think that is already the case?

[Shamir] Of course! Moreover, we have experienced an example of that phenomenon with al-Nasir.

[Rousselin] Some people in Israel said that there should have been a response to the Iraqi missile attacks to maintain the Israeli deterrent capability in the Arabs' eyes. Despite the end of the war, should Israel still think of retaliating?

[Shamir] It is not a question of retaliation. That question does not exist and has never existed. For us, the important thing was to eliminate the Scud missiles and prevent the attacks. It is not a game. It is not a table tennis match.

[Rousselin] Do you mean that Israel has no reason to respond now that the Scud threat has disappeared?

[Shamir] We have taken careful note of those attacks. We will remember them....

[Rousselin] Are you certain that Iraq no longer has the means of manufacturing nuclear or nonconventional weapons?

[Shamir] I have confidence in the United States. It will make sure of that. We do not yet know what measures the allies will take to prevent the rearming of Iraq, whether it be with a conventional or a nonconventional arsenal.

[Rousselin] You said that once peace had been restored, Israel would be subject to increased political pressure to secure through negotiations what force failed to secure....

[Shamir] I did not say that. But it is true that we are still facing the negotiation problem. The process has not changed. We must still face the efforts of those who want to persuade us to make concessions.

[Rousselin] Secretary of State James Baker is due to visit Israel next week. Do you think that he will exert pressure on you?

[Shamir] I do not know what positions Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have adopted. They were preoccupied by the war. But I hope that we will have the opportunity to discuss it.

[Rousselin] Are you afraid that President Bush might show the same determination to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict as he showed in liberating Kuwait?

[Shamir] It is impossible to compare these two problems. In Kuwait, it was a matter of facing an aggression, an occupation. Other aggressions, notably against Saudi Arabia, were to be feared. In our case, it is a political problem, which has lasted many years, since the creation of our state 42 years ago, and even before. The conflict between the Israelis and the Arabs is very long and very old. The problem does not boil down to simply gauging the political determination which a particular government may show in trying to find a solution, whether it takes a day or a month.

[Rousselin] Saddam Husayn finally accepted the 12 resolutions on Kuwait adopted by the UN Security Council since the invasion of that country on 2 August. How will Israel be able to continue to refuse to implement Resolution 242, adopted in 1967, and Resolution

348, adopted in 1973, which make provision for exchanging the occupied territories for peace with the Arabs?

[Shamir] The resolutions on Iraq are exceptional resolutions. There was an effort by the whole world to end the occupation of part of the Middle East. The United Nations has adopted a large number of resolutions which do not relate to Israel and which have never been implemented. Indeed, what is happening now ought to serve as an example for all the resolutions which the United Nations had adopted since it was founded in 1945.

[Rousselin] In exchange for the "restraint" which Israel showed in not responding to the missile attacks, did the Americans give you an assurance that they would not exert too much pressure?

[Shamir] That has nothing to do with it. They are different problems.

[Rousselin] David Levi, your foreign minister, has publicly suggested that Israel should take the initiative. To avoid simply giving the impression of reacting to other people's positions, it is the Jerusalem government which, according to him, ought to make proposals. Do you agree with that approach?

[Shamir] You are attaching too much importance to what you read in Israeli newspapers. That does not reflect Mr. Levi's views. He said that we ought to present the international community with our views, our positions, our program, and our own initiatives, which already exist. He did not talk about new ideas.

[Rousselin] Are you referring to the May 1989 initiative—the one that provides for elections in the occupied territories?

[Shamir] Of course. But obviously all that is subject to negotiations and discussions.

[Rousselin] For a long time, Israel regarded King Husayn of Jordan as a possible partner, but considered Hafiz al-Asad's Syria as an enemy. Syria participated in the coalition against Iraq, and Jordan supported Baghdad. How do you now view your relations with al-Asad and King Husayn?

[Shamir] King Husayn has problems. He is even a problem for himself. Over recent weeks he has changed his image and his approach. But he could change again....

[Rousselin] Do you regard al-Asad as the next Saddam Husayn?

[Shamir] There is reason to fear that. I hope that what has happened to Saddam Husayn will remove any similar temptation he might have.

[Rousselin] Is Israel prepared to have unconditional negotiations with al-Asad?

[Shamir] Of course. We are prepared to negotiate with any Arab leader, with any Arab government without preconditions.

[Rousselin] But you say that you will never hand back the territories. Is that a major precondition?

[Shamir] That is part of the negotiations. We are prepared to negotiate. That is all. There may be other proposals which have nothing to do with the question of the territories. Very few countries in the world are prepared to abandon part of their territory. I exaggerate: No country in the world is prepared to abandon any of its territories. I do not see why people should think that Israel should behave differently. I do not understand. We are not an exception.

[Rousselin] But on what will you negotiate if you are not prepared to hand back any territory?

[Shamir] We will negotiate peace, the conditions of peace, and cooperation in various spheres, like the economy and tourism. There are many questions that are important for peaceful coexistence.

[Rousselin] Do you believe that the outcome of the Gulf crisis will make it possible to improve the climate for cooperation with the Arabs?

[Shamir] Definitely. This experience has not been a very positive one for the countries of the region.

[Rousselin] The Syrians have said that Golan is the first issue to resolve in any future negotiations....

[Shamir] I do not know. I did not hear that. What I have heard up to now is that the most important issue for the Syrians is the Palestinian problem.

[Rousselin] If Damascus raises the Golan issue, wil you be willing to listen?

[Shamir] We will not say anything before starting negotiations.

[Rousselin] According to some Israelis, the missile attacks showed that the occupied territories did not provide the strategic depth that they were supposed to provide. According to the proponents of this theory, you will therefore have to resign yourselves to granting territorial concessions in order to resolve the Israeli-Arab dispute once and for all. What is your analysis?

[Shamir] Do you believe that the Saudis share this opinion?

[Rousselin] The Saudis took part in the bombardment of the missile ramps targeted on Israel. King Fahd refuses to listen to any mention of 'Arafat. So what obstacle is there to a peace agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia?

[Shamir] I see no obstacle. It is up to the Saudis to decide.

[Rousselin] In view of the very high feeling created in the territories by the Gulf war, do you believe that you can still find Palestinian negotiating partners?

[Shamir] It is not easy, and it will not be easy to find people we can talk to. It will take time. But we have already seen many changes in the Arab world. People still talk about the shifting sands of the Middle East. It's true. At the moment the Muslim fundamentalists are experiencing success. These are underlying tides that ebb and flow. In some years' time—I don't know when—this will change. I remember that the fundamentalists were very strong in Egypt before Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's revolution and even while he was in power. Then they virtually disappeared. Now they are in the ascendant again. In Algeria they have never before been as strong as they are now. But this could change tomorrow.

[Rousselin] Many Palestinians in the territories are angry about the curfew. A student at a rabbinical seminary was killed last night in Jerusalem's Old City. Do you fear an outburst of violence?

[Shamir] We do not support the curfew. If security permits, we want to create better living conditions for the Palestinians. I hope that this will happen. We must end this violence. They have everything to gain from this because, obviously, they will not achieve anything through violence. This will all change if they agree to negotiate a common future with us. I am sure that there will then be many opportunities for their aspirations.

[Rousselin] Since you want to retain the territories, why do you not simply annex the West Bank and Gaza?

[Shamir] We cannot do this because we are bound by the Camp David agreements. In these agreements we pledged not to make any fundamental changes to the status of these territories. We are loyal to our undertakings.

[Rousselin] The Soviet Union tried to provide Saddam Husayn with a way out. Does this alter the role that you envision for Moscow in a settlement of the region's conflicts?

[Shamir] At the moment the Soviet Union is having to deal with many problems. Nevertheless, it will remain an important factor in the international community. Clearly the Soviets will always want a major role in whatever happens in the Middle East. This will have to be discussed, negotiated.

[Rousselin] Do you fear a change in relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, since the prospect of the conservatives' regaining power is taking shape in Moscow?

[Shamir] Nobody knows what will happen in the Soviet Union. At the moment our relations are improving.

[Rousselin] There has been criticism of France's stance in the Gulf crisis....

[Shamir] There has also been a great improvement in recent weeks....

[Rousselin] Were you surprised that the French intervened in Iraqi territory?

[Shamir] No, I was not surprised.

[Rousselin] What do you think of the role played by France in the war, and does it encourage you regarding the postwar period?

[Shamir] I do not want to criticize the French Government for what it does or does not do. We have had different viewpoints on the conflict between Israel and the Arab world. But I regard France as a friendly country.

[Rousselin] What message do you plan to address to the coalition governments? In particular, in order to convince them that everything must be done to prevent Saddam Husayn, or his possible successor, from ever being able to threaten Israel again in the future?

[Shamir] I do not believe that there is any message to address to them. They are fully aware that if Saddam Husayn remains in power he will constitute a threat not only to peace and and stability in our region but also to the civilized world. It is essential to prevent him from remaining in power.

[Rousselin] Israel and the United States seem to disagree about the financing of the war damages claimed by the Jerusalem government for the destruction caused by Saddam's missiles.

[Shamir] There is no dispute about money. We are not claiming anything from the United States. What we are requesting is U.S. assistance, and we have been receiving this for many years.

[Rousselin] What is your present state of mind? Are you relieved because a major battle has been won? Do you believe that the victory is not absolutely final? Or do you fear that other even harsher battles await Israel?

[Shamir] Battles are never entirely over. That's life. The fact remains that it was very important to teach the Iraqi dictator a lesson, to show the whole world that the aim of destroying one country after another is unacceptable. I believe that this lesson must be a decisive one....

[Rousselin] Do you believe that this is the case?

[Shamir] Something could certainly be added to the lesson. Perhaps this will be done.

Levi Arrives in London, To Confer With Hurd 5 Mar

TA0403201891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi will confer with Foreign Minister Hurd in London tomorrow. Levi arrived in London today. The British minister said the

visit was initiated by Israel and that issues relating to the two countries and the outcome of the Gulf war will be discussed.

Further Reportage on Secretary Baker Visit

Lack of New Ideas Noted

TA0403142991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Two Premises Refuted"]

[Text] Two premises were refuted last night when the U.S. secretary of state exposed, in an untypical display of candor, his hidden thoughts about the Middle East on the television show "Meet the Press."

One was the axiom that led the Israeli Government to believe that, in view of the Gulf war, the United States "has learned that the Arabs are not to be trusted," and therefore Israel should not be pressed to make concessions in return for their verbal commitments.

The other axiom which burst like a balloon belonged to the opposition. It had maintained that Baker will come here equipped with a large press and a decision to squeeze Israel until it agrees to take its place in the American "new order."

Although he disqualified the PLO from playing a part in negotiations (but not Jordan, despite the fact that it courted Iraq no less passionately than did 'Arafat), Baker really went out of his way in a bid to convince his listeners that he has no intention of forcing a peace plan on anyone, that he is not bringing such a plan with him, and that all he has is "an attentive ear for new ideas."

On the surface, this should have served as an invitation for all the factions in Israel to rally behind an agreed upon plan. In fact, not only did the prime minister and the head of the opposition each fence themselves behind his own plan (which are not new), but their camps have broken into splinters of groups, each waving its own "idea."

Therefore, Baker, and not just he, is in for a disappointment.

Palestinians Urged To Meet Baker

TA0503115191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Mar 91 p 2

[Report by Nazareth correspondent Muhammad Khalilah]

[Text] For the first time, Israeli Arab notables have decided to intervene with their Palestinian brethren in the territories in order to persuade them not to refuse to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when he visits Israel.

The Israeli Arab leaders involved asked that, to help them succeed, they not be named in the media. They say that this is the first time they have considered it their duty to intervene in internal Palestinian affairs, as they see the need to convince them to shed their rejectionist image. One of the Israeli Arab figures is well known and is accepted by both the Israeli Arab sector and the Palestinian leadership. This person said that it is time for the Palestinians in the territories, and especially their leadership, to take matters in hand and set an independent line and policy.

It has been learned that at least ten Israeli Arab public figures have personally launched this initiative. They claim that those who feel a sense of responsibility toward the Palestinian people must learn to read the new regional map and discern the changes in the region and throughout the world in the aftermath of the Gulf war and must look ahead to a better future. Among the Israeli Arab leaders behind this initiative are several local council heads, party heads and leaders of political movements, religious figures, and white collar professionals, including attorneys, doctors, and businessmen.

Shoval Calls for Submitting Proposals

TA0403114191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Mar 91 pp A1, A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpts] The sword of the international conference will be raised every time Israel and the United States disagree on the political process. Thus warned Zalman Shoval, the Israeli ambassador to Washington, in a classified cable sent to Foreign Minister David Levi in preparation for U.S. Secretary of State Baker's visit to Israel. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Administration and Congress differ on the scope of emergency aid that should be sent to Israel. The administration is willing to give Israel approximately $500 million as compensation for the expenses incurred during the Gulf war, while Congress supports awarding Israel approximately $900 million.

In his cable, Shoval states that the main purpose of Baker's Middle East tour is to investigate the possibility of security arrangements in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East and to resolve the outstanding conflicts, while including Israel in these efforts. Shoval also asserted that after this trip, which the secretary of state has designated mainly for the purpose of studying and hearing about the issues, there could be additional visits by Baker. The ambassador claimed that U.S. officials are devoting a lot of thought to a possible accord with Syria, even though they are quite pessimistic about the chances.

Shoval proposed that Israel prove its readiness to Baker by submitting its own proposals. He suggested formulating a joint policy of coordination in principle, so that the United States and Israel would not spring surprises

on each other. Shoval stressed that Israel should make its constraints clear, and clarify what it can and cannot accept.

Shoval called on the government to propose issuing a public communique together with Baker, in which the secretary of state would express opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state, and to emphasize that Israel expects the United States to exert all the pressure it can on its Arab coalition partners to secure practical steps to further the peace process such as a cessation of the state of war and a revoking of the Arab boycott. [passage omitted]

Shoval believes that Israel should propose bilateral peace talks and negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, as a condition for progress on the Palestinian issue. He estimated that the United States has no interest at this stage in involving the United Nations in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that as long as there is no progress, attempts to convene an international conference will be repulsed.

Regarding bilateral issues, the ambassador proposed making efforts to have U.S. equipment and weapons stationed in Israel and at Israel's disposal, to widen strategic cooperation, and not to raise the issue of economic aid before the United States does so itself.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 5 March in a page 2 report by Tzvi Gilat adds that "in Jerusalem, there is a growing assessment that Baker will not submit demands during his visit to Israel that is due to begin next Monday. Political sources estimated that this visit was for get-acquainted purposes, to express support for Israel, but also to clarify the issues on the U.S. Administration's agenda." The report also notes that "despite Soviet and European support for a 'regional peace conference,' in which the United Nations would play a major role, political sources in Jerusalem estimate that the United States would not support such ideas, so as not to tie its hands."]

Likud Caucus: Peres' Plan Harms Israel's Image

TA0403125691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpts] This morning the Likud caucus leveled harsh criticism at Shim'on Peres' peace plan. The caucus said that Peres' plan harms Israel's image. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports:

The Likud faction says that Knesset Member [MK] Shim'on Peres is trying to build himself up within his party through a harmful blow at the correct government policy. The main drive behind Peres' plan is his desire to regain a ruling position. This is the reason why, on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's arrival, Mr. Peres resorted to his international conference initiative in a bid to soften the starting point of negotiations.

Likud whip, MK Tzahi Hanegbi, said that only three people are still demanding that Israel enter the international conference trap: Saddam Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, and Shim'on Peres. Tzahi Hanegbi proposed that early elections be held. [passage omitted]

The faction further said that the autonomy plan, based on the Camp David accords, and the government's peace initiative of May 1989 are the only possible grounds for Arab-Israeli coexistence in the Middle East.

Ze'evi Discusses Proposal To Annul Peace Plan

TA0403100491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0835 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Minister Without Portfolio Rehav'am Ze'evi by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] Good morning, Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi.

[Ze'evi] A good day to you.

[Einstein] Are you demanding that the government's peace initiative of May 1989 be annulled?

[Ze'evi] The word demand is an exaggeration; I am suggesting.

[Einstein] Why?

[Ze'evi] First of all, because I know what my strength is: I am merely one of many, and my party is made up of two out of 120 Knesset members. Therefore, the word demand belongs with a bigger body.

[Einstein] Why are you suggesting, then?

[Ze'evi] Because I think the government plan is obsolete. We know full well that only people who have Yasir 'Arafat's seal of approval can be elected in the territories, which will mean a Tunis stamp and a dialogue with the PLO under a guise. We have nothing to discuss with the PLO.

[Einstein] Do you have an alternative plan?

[Ze'evi] Certainly. We must remember the goal of Zionism, which is the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Yisra'el. We have no business sitting around thinking about how to establish a Palestinian state, or how to solve the Arabs' problems. Our supreme, top priority is to establish a Jewish state in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Einstein] When you say this, are you talking of a peace initiative as you perceive it?

[Ze'evi] Certainly. All the parties to the conflict, not only Israel, will benefit if peace is attained.

[Einstein] Do you think this is the way to attain peace?

[Ze'evi] If peace is only Israel's interest, we may as well forget it. Peace is the interest of all the peoples residing in the Middle East, because peace will bring prosperity

and new vigor to the Middle East. This area has everything: human resources, water, oil, land, sun, Jewish technology. Everyone will benefit if all these elements collaborate. So, we can offer a lot: We can offer peace in exchange for peace; development in exchange for peace; prosperity in exchange for peace; cessation of assassinations and killings in exchange for peace.

[Einstein] And what will you offer the Palestinians in the territories? To become citizens of the State of Israel?

[Ze'evi] I will propose to the Palestinians in the territories that they return to the countries of their forefathers. Twenty-one such countries are waiting for them, and some of them sorely need manpower. We, too, have ordained that our nation is to return to the country of our forefathers, which means that there is no bias here. The decree is equal and symmetrical: Every nation returns to the country of its forefathers.

[Einstein] What about those who do not want to go back? Those who want to stay here?

[Ze'evi] They will stay.

[Einstein] And be citizens like you and me?

[Ze'evi] They will not be citizens, they will be residents. In the State of Israel, only the Jewish inhabitants and the minorities belonging to smaller Israel [State of Israel] can be citizens.

[Einstein] Then you do draw a line! On one hand, you say that the territories will be part of the State of Israel, and on the other, you differentiate between the residents on the two sides of the Green Line.

[Ze'evi] Absolutely. This is nothing new, we have always said this. We have always said that minorities, who are citizens of the State of Israel, should be treated as minorities, but they should be required to do their duty as citizens. In the present situation, they live in paradise, as they have rights only. They should have all the duties of citizens, because they are full-fledged citizens.

[Einstein] Rehav'am Ze'evi, as you said at the beginning, you know that in the cabinet, you belong to a minority, to a negligible minority even. How do you propose to promote these ideas of yours?

[Ze'evi] By persuasion. I also expect that in the future, this small and negligible minority's votes will be needed. In democracy, one man can sometimes tip the scales. We all remember the case of Knesset Member [MK] Abu-Hatzera who, as a one-man party, tipped the scales on one occasion. In a democracy, a two-man party can sometimes make a difference, and after the next elections, I believe we will no longer be two-men strong; we will be a large camp.

[Einstein] What do you mean by a large camp? What is your ambition?

[Ze'evi] My ambition is to have a decisive power, and only the voters will decide whether it will consist of two, 14, six, or three MK's. I strive to reach a situation in which this number will have the power to make a difference, to tip the scales. [passage omitted]

IDF Asserts Intifadah Resuming Prewar Scope

TA0503134191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Mar 91 pp A1, A6

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Ori Nir, and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In discussions held yesterday by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the General Staff's forum, senior officers reported an exacerbation of the intifadah, especially in the West Bank. Military sources asserted that there has been a significant rise in incidences of stone throwing, threats to collaborators, firebombings, and violent demonstrations accompanied by clashes with IDF troops. They expressed the belief that there were signs indicating that the intifadah is resuming its prewar proportions. At this stage, the IDF has not reinforced its presence in the territories, but there are explicit orders to prevent violent demonstrations.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday chaired a debate of the territories forum in his office, with the participation of Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the head of the Central Command, and his staff officers. Mordekhay reviewed events in the West Bank during the war and reported the signs that pointed to an exacerbation. [passage omitted]

IDF Studying 'Important' Lessons of Gulf War

TA0403161791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Mar 91 p 5

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] "The Air Force can provide an adequate answer to the missile threat. A decision on whether to punish or to prevent missile launchings lies with the political echelon. Any time the cabinet decides to punish Iraq, it has the means to do so."

These remarks were made by Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Air Force commander, in an interview with the Air Force bulletin published today. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] believes that there still are at least four mobile Scud missile launchers (out of 20 to 30 on the eve of the war), and that all the fixed launchers, some 30, were destroyed or seriously damaged before they could even fire a single Scud at Israel.

During the war, the allied Air Forces carried out 110,000 sorties in Iraq and Kuwait. Six percent of the sorties were devoted to destroying surface-to-surface missiles in southern and western Iraq. On the other hand, the IDF

says, the allies chose not to destroy the Iraqi surface-to-air missiles, but to make do with totally neutralizing them through electronic warfare measures.

The IDF is continuing to study the battle moves in the Gulf and to draw conclusions. The most important lessons are that the Air Force is now capable of deciding the ground battle thanks to the high accuracy of precision-guided munitions if it has air superiority.

Although the IDF is well aware of the capability of precision-guided munitions, it was taken by surprise by the dramatic achievement of the Air Forces in deciding the ground battle almost without sustaining any losses. The IDF was also surprised by the fact that Iraq chose not to operate its own Air Force. "The Iraqi Air Force surprised me very much," the Air Force commander said. "Of the 700 aircraft Iraq had on the eve of the war, it was left with about 300 when the battles ceased. The Iraqis flew their most sophisticated Sukhoi-24 and MiG-29 aircraft to Iran, but it is believed that the Iranians will not rush to return those aircraft to Iraq. Even before the war, Iran demanded $300 billion in reparations from Iraq for damages caused by the first Gulf war. It seems that the aircraft that escaped to Iran will be viewed by the Iranians as a deposit on that payment.

The IDF says that since World War I chemical weapons have not been used against a country that had the means to respond in kind. The Gulf war is not an exception. The Iraqis understood that their enemies have more than enough means to strike back hard for each chemical attack.

The war also showed that the Scud missiles are clearly terrorist weapons. They caused much less casualties than feared at the outset of the war. The IDF stresses that had only one Iraqi plane infiltrated Israeli air space it would have caused much greater damage than that caused by the 40 Scud missiles which fell in various parts of the country.

Nevertheless, the IDF says that the Syrian Scud missiles might cause greater damage than the Iraqi Scuds, since they are more precise and can carry heavier warheads and they have to cover a shorter distance.

Treasury Estimates Gulf Losses at $3.5 Billion

TA0103094691 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Mar 91 p A1

[Report by Yosi Greenstein and Mikhal Holtzman]

[Excerpt] The Treasury estimates that the Gulf crisis caused losses of over $3.5 billion to the Israeli economy.

Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said yesterday that "since August 1990, the Israeli economy has stopped growing. During that period, especially in the past six weeks, the economy has sustained serious damage. We now have to return to an intensified economic effort."

The damage the Treasury refers to includes: $1.4 billion in lost production; $700 million in damages to tourism; $400 million in supplementary military expenditures; and $400 million in increased fuel prices at the start of the crisis. [passage omitted]

Growing Palestinian Criticism of PLO Observed

TA0403150891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Mar 91 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] The latest Unified National Leadership leaflet, issued this weekend, warns Palestinians not to question the supremacy of the PLO amid increasing signs that that is what is happening.

Leaflet 68, entitled "Appeal of Adherence to the PLO," insists that Iraq won the war in the Gulf. It warns Palestinians against attempts by the allied coalition to divide and demoralize them, but indicates that some Palestinians have already begun to speak out against PLO policies during the war.

The leaflet warns all "cowardly voices who have begun to come out of their burrows to go along with the occupier's plans and American dominance, against accepting only minimal consideration of the PLO."

It also says that "the Iraqi army and its brave resistance forced the leaders of the opposition-coalition, at whose forefront was the criminal Bush, to declare cessation of combat against Iraq and begin consultations with it."

However, there is growing, if still minority, recognition among Palestinians that Iraq has suffered a major military and political defeat. While few challenge the supremacy of the PLO itself, many, including some identified with Fatah, say there must be a change in PLO policy and possibly its leadership. U.S. Secretary of State Baker's impending visit is heightening tension between Palestinians who want to meet him and those who want to boycott his visit.

"People are talking about a revolution within a revolution," one well-known Palestinian activist remarked yesterday. The new leadership, several influential Palestinians have said, could consist of little known junior PLO officials in Tunis or American-Palestinian university professors, such as Walid Khalidi and Edward Said, who were critical of PLO policy during the Gulf War.

Egypt, which the leaflet brackets with Zionists and imperialists, also has supporters. Last week, Bi'r Zayt professor and Communist Party supporter Ghassan al-Khatib told THE JERUSALEM POST there was no alternative to an Egypt-Syria-Saudi axis.

This week, the second edition of AL-MANAR, a Palestinian pro-Egyptian news magazine, was distributed to subscribers in East Jerusalem. Its editor, Isma'il 'al-'Ajwa, is considered close to the Egyptian Embassy here. Its first editorial was critical of Iraq and suggested it had miscalculated.

The East Jerusalem daily, AL-QUDS, which was attacked two weeks ago by Palestinian activists for carrying statements by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, still sells more than twice as many copies in East Jerusalem than its two pro-Fatah rivals AL-FAJR and AL-SHA'AL.

One newspaper editor, who in private was highly critical of Iraq, but whose newspaper supported that country during the Gulf war, told the POST: "I feel schizophrenic."

Palestinian observers say that the general consensus that Iraq staged an orderly withdrawal from Kuwait in order to frustrate allied ambitions to destroy Iraq could break down if it becomes clear that allied claims that they captured 165,000 Iraqi soldiers are verified during the upcoming prisoner exchange. If Saddam Husayn is overthrown and discredited by the Iraqi people it is likely that calls for radical changes in the PLO will multiply and attempts to veil the reality of Iraq's defeat could boomerang.

Allied POW's Arrive at Al-Ruwayshid From Iraq

NC0503125091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Mar 91 p 1

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Text] Amman—The ten allied forces prisoners of war [POW] released by Iraq arrived at al-Ruwayshid border post at 2115 [1915 GMT] yesterday. The POW's are six Americans—including a woman—three Britons, and one Italian.

Three vehicles owned by the International Committee of the Red Cross transferred the POW's to the Jordanian border where they were handed over to the Red Cross representative in Jordan. They were received by the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, and Italy.

At al-Ruwayshid, a large number of Arab and foreign journalists were waiting for the POW's. The journalists were not allowed to talk to the POW's, but only to take their pictures.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the POW's are scheduled to leave for their countries on a private plane from Amman International Airport.

Badran Denies Remark Attributed to Prince Hasan

NC0503134691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran said the statement attributed to Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan by a U.S. newspaper—that it will be difficult for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to remain in power—was not accurate and was distorted.

In a statement to our radio, Badran said the crown prince is not in the habit of making comments about heads of states and governments. Badran said that throughout the months of the crisis, Prince Hasan called for a political solution. In all of his interviews, Badran added, the prince avoided mentioning any Arab leader and advised that personal matters be ignored when political and economic issues are discussed. Badran stressed that whatever happens in Iraq is an internal affair and concerns the Iraqis themselves. Any comment on events in Iraq is interference in that country's internal affairs, he said.

Minister Hopes for New Era in Arab Relations

JN0303113091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 91 pp 1,5

[By Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan hopes the Arab World will open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations in order to rebuild its relations in the post-Gulf war era.

"We have always thought that Arab and regional cooperation would make things much easier from a political and economic point of view," said Minister of Information Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din at a press briefing Saturday.

The minister said that for the first time there had been a clear fallout in inter-Arab politics, and that it would take time to reconcile the Arab World.

"What happened in the last few months was really traumatic," said Mr. 'Izz-al-Din of the Gulf crisis and the ensuing war.

"We have entered a new phase. We have a real separation and division (in the Arab World); we have to acknowledge this," he said.

The minister reitrated that Jordan was ready and had in fact always been ready to talk to anyone seeking dialogue.

The minister also stressed that liberalisation and democratisation that had taken place in Jordan since parliamentary elections held in Nov. 1989 had made the Gulf crisis more bearable than it may have been otherwise.

Indirectly encouraging other countries in the region to pursue liberalisation and democratisation in their institutions and political system, Mr. 'Izz-al-Din said: "It will be easier to talk to countries with democratic institutions."

Asked about the situation of Jordanians in Kuwait, the minister said that while "there is some sort of worry about Jordanians in Kuwait, the Jordanian government is going to do what is possible to protect their interests and the Jordanian government would talk with whoever is in charge in Kuwait."

Responding to suggestions that Jordanians would leave Kuwait "en masse" as a result of Kuwaiti animosity towards them as a result of what many Kuwaitis perceived as pro-Iraqi stand by the Jordanian government, Mr. 'Izz-al-Din said that the Jordanian government hoped that the several hundred thousand Jordanians in Kuwait would continue working in the Gulf state, as they have for several decades, and that the host country "would like them to continue" there.

While Jordan has not reopened its embassy in Kuwait but Mr. 'Izz- al-Din said that the government retained close ties with the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission here.

Jordan would resume its imports of Iraqi oil as soon as possible, he said.

Mr. 'Izz-al-Din reiterated Jordan's denial that it had broken the United Nations economic sanctions on Iraq.

Jordan's relations with the United States government had faced some difficulties during the Gulf crisis, "as it

was stated by officials" in the U.S. and Jordan but Jordanian-European [relations] had suffered no setbacks, Mr. 'Izz-al-Din said.

House Issues Statement on Current Developments

NC0403211691 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, 4 Mar (PETRA)—The House of Representatives held a session last night under its speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers. During the session, the statement that was prepared by the Foreign Affairs Committee on the Arab nation's current circumstances was read. The following is the text of the statement:

During these crucial circumstances which the Arab and Islamic nations are passing through, which has exposed another link in the chain of rancorous international American-Atlantic plotting against the nation, its sanctities, and aspirations for unity, liberation, independence, strength, and justice, it has become clear that this campaign is only part of the colonialist-crusader-Zionist campaigns to impose hegemony on the nation's destinies, confiscate its will and independent decision, and to strike at the faithful awakening of its masses. In addition, this aggressive war is aimed at imposing a new fait accompli and drawing a new map for the region to guarantee the control of America, its allies, and world Zionism over the region; to tie the region's economy to the interests of the rancorous aggressive states; and to strike at the plan of the Arab-Islamic awakening, whose banners are being raised by Iraq, and which is represented by the determination to employ the nation's resources and capabilities to liberate its usurped territories, wealth, and will, and to play its natural and appropriate role in the progress of human civilization.

The barbaric aggression that was launched by America and its allies, and which is represented by the brutal attack that was aimed at destroying the features of civilization, cultural heritage, scientific and economic installations, and killing civilians, children, women, and the elderly, in residential areas and shelters, reveals a hidden rancor against this nation and exposes their false claims on civilization, progress, human rights, and peoples' freedoms. Accordingly, Iraq's heroic steadfastness, leadership, Army, and people, in the face of this brutal and inhuman onslaught that is equipped with the most sophisticated weapons of destruction, provide a vivid example to be followed by all the peoples struggling for unity, freedom, and dignity, and embody the Arab and Islamic nation's spirit of preserving man and his values in thought, civilization, cultural heritage, and ideology pursuant to the instructions of Caliph Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq, may God bless, to his triumphant soldiers in which he instructed them not to cut a tree, not to kill a child, and old man, or woman, and not to attack any worshiper in a place of worship.

We, in Jordan, proceed from a strong faith and deep awareness that the raging conflict, which will continue in the future, is a conflict with the entire nation despite the American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance's fierce media, political, and military attempts to entrench the parochial mentality and to play down the true nature of the conflict, which was revealed by their moves to fragment the one nation and to deal with it as separate political entities in order to entrench its weakness and subservience.

In view of these circumstances facing our nation, the Jordanian House of Representatives stresses the following constants:

1. Continuation to confront the colonialist onslaught in its various political, economic, and military forms, and the rejection of any attempt to subjugate the region to the plans of hegemony, partition, and subservience no matter what their nomenclatures are;

2. Commitment to the principle that the Palestinian cause is the central cause of the Arab and Islamic nation; the consideration that the Zionist-Jewish entity is a source of anxiety for the whole region and the root cause of all problems; and the support for the jihad of the Muslim Arab Palestinian people—the nation's vanguard force—to uproot this extraneous entity from the land of sanctities, to support the valiant intifadah, and the call upon the Arab and Islamic peoples and the international community to stand by this people to lift injustice and end the suffering manifest in the occupation of this people's land and oppression against its people;

3. Assertion of the need to build an integrated Arab-islamic system in harmony with the nation's aspirations, creed, values, and culture, that would secure its wealth's fair distribution and utilization in building its might and developing its economic and military capabilities to safegaurd its peace and stability;

4. Focus on the continuation of the mobilization of the masses to instigate a spirit of jihad and sacrifice in all fields and by all state and popular organizations; and continuation of support for the popular army, as a backup for our valiant armed forces, with various means;

5. The belief that public freedoms and enhancement of democracy and consultation in the Arab and Islamic countries are the basis for a collective Arab and Islamic rise, and a means of realizing the nation's unity in order to emerge from the state of disarray and division and to confront the challenges;

6. Commitment to the course Iraq has chosen in confronting the rancorous American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against the nation; the support for Iraq's leadership, Army, and people to pursue this national path for liberation from subservience and foreign domination, and for preserving the the nation's intellectual and cultural identity by achieving its independence and progress. Here, we record with utmost pride the the Iraqi Army's heroic stnad which history will immoralize as a torch for the jihad of all Arab and Islamic peoples;

7. Contribution to the building and reconstruction of Iraq both at Arab and Islamic levels in all spheres, because Iraq's reconstruction is tantamount to the building of the Arab and Islamic entity;

8. Firm rejection of all forms of foreign presence in Arab and Islamic land, waters, and air;

9. Deep appreciation for the stand of Arab, Islamic, and free nations of the world on Iraq's side in its confrontation of the ferocious hostile onslaught that aimed Iraq's capabilities, military, scientific, and cultural accomplishments, and Iraq's emergence as a force for the Third World countries' liberation and freedom, we specially mention the friendly state of Cuba and its struggling leader Fidel Castro; and

10. Pride in the Jordanian people's and leadership's firm stand emanating from the nation's principles which is in line with its ideology and aspirations. This stand has been apparent in the unlimited support for Iraq in its confrontation in this great showdown against the forces of injustice and aggression, despite the prssures Jordan has been under, represented by the economic blockade and its exensive effects, and the aggression against Jordan's sons and capabilities.

Parliamentary Delegation Returns From Turkey

NC0303155991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Senate member Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan has returned to Amman following a visit to Turkey. The delegation was composed of House of Representatives members Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir and Engineer Fu'ad Khalafat; and Fayiz al-Shawabikah, member of the parliament General Secretariat.

Dr. al-Farhan said that during the visit, the delegation handed a letter to Kaya Erdem, speaker of the Turkish parliament, from Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives. The delegation also met with several Turkish officials and party leaders.

He added that they reviewed the Jordanian position on the Gulf crisis, and exchanged views on the Turkish stance. They also discussed the blame directed by the Jordanian people and the free of the Arab and Islamic nation at the Turkish parliamentarians who allowed the Turkish Government to permit the use of Incirlik base by Western coalition aircraft .

Moreover, he said that the two sides stressed the need to tackle regional issues within the circle of Arabs and Muslims without the intervention of foreign forces—especially the U.S. attempt to impose on this region its hegemony and the new world order, as it and world Zionism envisage it.

Al-Farhan also explained that the talks touched on the dangers of Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, Israeli plans with regard to settlements, expansion, provocation of regional states, especially Jordan, and the need to confront in the coming stage the Zionist and Western danger which threatens security in the entire region.

Convoy of Food, Medicine Leaves for Iraq

NC0503161591 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, 5 Mar (PETRA)—A convoy carrying 150 tons of medicines, medical equipment, and food left Amman for Baghdad today.

Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Humayd, member of the rab Health Committee for Mobilization and Emergency in Support of Fraternal Iraq which supervised the preparation of the convoy, said that the committee continues to receive monetary and material contributions from various parts of the kingdom. He called on the citizens to continue to support the committee's efforts to undertake its tasks for the brothers in fraternal Iraq.

Al-'Aqabah-Bound Ships Still Subject to Search

NC0403161191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—The Shipping Agents' Union in Jordan has affirmed that commercial ships heading to the port of al-'Aqabah are still being subjected to search operations and harassment by the U.S. and allied navies stationed in the Straits of Tiran at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqabah.

The union said that the number of ships that are turned back is far fewer than during the Gulf crisis, and that a number of shipping lines have resumed their trips to the port of al-'Aqabah after having stopped them due to the Gulf crisis.

It also noted that there are intense contacts with world shipping lines urging them to resume commercial shipping to the port of al-'Aqabah. The union expressed hope that shipping in the port will return to what it was prior to the outbreak of the crisis, and that the port of al-'Aqabah will no longer be regarded as within the war zone.

Arab Engineers Form Committee To Reconstruct Iraq

NC0303172991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Mar 91 p 18

[Text] Amman—Engineer Isma'il Baryush, head of the Engineers Union Council, has said that the Union Council, out of its pan-Arab and national stand and its belief in the unity of the fateful Arab issues, announces the formation of a committee of Arab engineers to reconstruct Iraq. The committee, he said, will receive donations and Jordanian and Arab engineer volunteers to reconstruct what was destroyed by the unjust war in fraternal Iraq, which offered its land, people, and everything it has to defend the Arab nation, free its will,

liberate the usurped territories of the Arab homeland, and defend the dignity of this nation. The least we can do, he added, is to offer money and efforts to contribute to the reconstruction of Iraqi buildings and installations so that it can remain a lofty rock in the face of those who harbor ambitions in this nation and its wealth.

Brotherhood, Islamic Group on Maintaining Jihad

NC0403170691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Muslim brothers have praised Iraq's heroic steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught that is abhorrent to all faithful values and codes of conduct.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Muslim brothers cautioned against a conspiracy looming on the horizon to redraw the map of the region in a manner that will intensify divisions, shred the nation's unity, and waste human and financial capabilities. The nation would not then be able to unite to confront the enemies, avenge itself, and defeat the losers.

The statement pointed to the many lessons and conclusions from which we can benefit in the aftermath of the aggression launched by the international crusaders and Zionism on Arab and Muslim Iraq; namely, exposing the truth about the racist West—its ideology, behaviour, and ethics.

The statement explained that this war has opened a new door for jihad [holy war] which must be expanded. The opportunity must be seized to awaken the peoples, raise them on faith, and mobilize them for jihad. The statement pointed out that what took place in the Gulf must be regarded as a prelude to a long conflict between this nation and its enemies.

On the other hand, the representatives of the Islamic Movement issued a statement in which they stressed the need to maintain the pioneering jihad trend which Iraq had drawn, regardless of the immense sacrifices, and ganging together of the evil, aggressive, and colonialist powers. The Islamic Movement representatives also stressed the need to confront the plans of the enemies and the psychological warfare being launched against this nation.

The statement called on all to safeguard our blessed national unity, and the march of freedom and consultation that has been entrenched in Jordan. It also called for not allowing the weak-willed and those who cast doubt to strike this blessed unity.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects 'Jewish State'

JN0503090291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 91 p 3

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood Movement has reiterated its rejection of any peaceful solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict which is based on the recognition of Israel and giving up parts of Palestine to the Jewish state.

"Islam bans us from giving any part of our Islamic lands away," Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the leader of the movement in Jordan told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

However, the spiritual leader hedged a question on whether the brotherhood would reject such a solution if it was actually arrived at.

"Let us see how they will solve the Palestinian problem first," Khalifah replied.

A statement published by the Brotherhood Movement in Jordan Monday said that "winds of surrender solutions after the Gulf war will be gripping the region and foremost among these solutions is the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

"Those resolutions mean giving up 70 per cent of Palestinian lands and negotiating over the rest leading up to self rule in those areas," the statement said.

"The nation has to stand fast against such a plot and resist it with all its might," the statement stressed.

Khalifah said that the basic foundation adopted by the brotherhood is that "it is impossible to give up any part of Palestine."

However, Khalifah said, "when we hear, listen and are sure of what these solutions are we will give our opinion on them."

The statement came at the heels of strong popular dismay over the results of the Gulf war placing blame on radical political movements which failed to extend practical aid to Iraq during the war. Many felt that statements calling for jihad and continued struggle, by Islamic and other political parties, amounted to vocal applaud and no concrete actions.

"What happened in the Gulf, regardless of the way it has concluded, has to be seen as the beginning of a long bloody struggle between this nation and its enemies," the statement said.

"We have to adopt a comprehensive jihad policy to liberate all the land of Palestine from the grips of the Jews," the statement added.

In the Friday sermon aired on television, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani also painted Iraq's military defeat in the Gulf war as another test of Muslims' will to fight for their holy places and an example to be learnt from and heeded.

"What took place in the Gulf is not bad but rather a good development in that it revealed the collaborators in the region," the Muslim Brotherhood Movement statement said.

The brotherhood's position on the Palestinian problem has always rejected recognition of Israel and any solutions which will allow for an accommodation with the Jewish state. It is in direct contrast with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's declared position which recognises Israel and calls for the implementation of the two U.N. resolutions and self determination for Palestinians.

The statement, which was issued at the same time as another by the Muslim Brotherhood Movement's deputies at the Lower House of Parliament, warned of plans to redraw the map of the region and called on the Islamic Nation to "return to Islam as an ideology, shari'a as a way of life and refuse any rule or law which rejects Islam."

The statement of the movement's deputies also followed the same line of analysis of the Gulf war calling for concentrated efforts to support Iraq and its reconstruction.

However their statement which also rejected "American and foreign attempts at imposing their hegemony over the region" did not refer to the U.N. resolutions directly.

"We have to continue to support our path and struggle through training, arming the people and set our hearts on jihad in preparation for our war with the Jews which will require all our efforts and resources," the deputies said in their statement.

National Carrier To Return Fleet, Increase Flights

JN0403083091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 91 p 3

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Royal Jordanian (RJ) fleet of aircraft which was based temporarily in Vienna during the Gulf war will return to Amman as war-risk insurance premiums will be cancelled as of today, Monday.

An RJ spokesman announced Sunday that the national carrier will increase regular flights out of Amman and maintain a 50 percent working schedule for the coming month starting next Saturday.

Flights from Amman were reduced to around two per day during the war while insurance rates of JD [Jordanian dinar] 100 on regional flights and JD 167 on international flights were added to all ticket prices.

"All aircraft will return to Amman and will operate out of the Kingdom on the same routes as before the eruption of the crisis," the official said.

Extra insurance premiums on air cargo will also be lifted for Jordanian exports, the official said. Surcharges on shipping by air had increased to JD 0.300 for each kilogramme of produce and JD 0.500 on other commercial Jordanian exports.

The official explained that a decision has been taken to "reactivate airplanes and routes gradually to a rate of 50 per cent as of next Saturday and until the beginning of April when RJ will re-adopt its winter schedule completely."

RJ resumed its flights to Jeddah and Abu Dhabi in late February after a break of nearly four weeks and to Muscat earlier this month.

Promise of 'New Arab Dawn' Seen in King's Speech

NC0203145291 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Mar 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Dynamic Nations Emerge From the Ashes"]

[Text] On the anniversary of a special and advanced national and pan-Arab event represented by the Arabization of the command of the Jordanian Arab Army, His Majesty King Husayn, who made that event, preferred to address the mind, heart, and conscience of the Arab individual, no matter whether he is a leader or part of the basis that forms the Arab fabric, and urged concerted efforts to herald a new Arab dawn.

His Majesty King Husayn wanted to make this call after the curtain has dropped on the Gulf crisis in order to remind all Arabs that the new phase should not be wasted in blaming and hating one another, because it is a phase of construction, cooperation, reconciliation, understanding, and rapprochement, and because it should be the beginning of a new era between Iraq and Kuwait and a starting point to build our pan-Arab force, restore our self-confidence, and safeguard our values. Through this vision, His Majesty King Husayn preferred, as usual, to make Jordan a model by announcing that it opens its arms and extends its hand to all the brothers without blaming or bearing any grudge toward any one. Jordan realized that it would pay dearly for adhering to its pan-Arab position and for maintaining its freedom of choice and because of its geographic location.

By addressing the mind, heart, and conscience of the Arab individual, His Majesty King Husayn wanted to draw attention to our nation's enemies, who are trying to turn the Gulf event into a permanent wedge and a fire to disorganize the Arab fabric, eat up Arab values, and increase Arab fragmentation so that the Arabs cannot maintain a real weight or presence in the new world order. He also wanted to warn the Arabs of these dangerous goals and urge them to deal with each other in light of their joint potential in order to build and develop themselves, solve their problems by themselves, especially border disputes, and to build inter-Arab relations on strong pan-Arab foundations.

His majesty also urged the international community anew to deal with the Palestine question with the same

vigor that it demonstrated over the Gulf crisis and to apply international legitimacy to it without selectivity. He added that as soon as their issue is settled, the Palestinian people should be given the right to determine their future and represent themselves.

His majesty also called on the international community to pay attention to the dangers of the current gap between rich and poor countries and urged it to narrow that gap to maintain true stability.

The leader of the homeland proudly stressed the importance of our democratic experience, its continuation, and the effectiveness with which it dealt with the recent big events. He strongly called for entrenching the pillars of democracy in the region because it will allow popular participation in decision-making and prevent officials from making mistakes when they make decisions.

Thus, His Majesty King Husayn's call for Arab reconciliation, for a fair international stand on the Palestinian people, and for democracy epitomizes the features of the road to a new Arab dawn. His Majesty's heartfelt wishes to the Kuwaiti people and his determination to support the Iraqi brothers also indicate Jordan's deep-rooted pan-Arab principles.

Columnist on Bush's View of Country's Stance

NC0503155791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Mar 91 p 18

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "It Is the Justice of the War and Not Its Outcome That Counts"]

[Text] President Bush was wrong when he said the Jordanians' stand on the Gulf war "is due to their ignorance of what is going on in Iraq." In fact, he made two mistakes:

First, he believes that Jordanians are living behind a wall behind which they have no access to sources of information. So we can say that "it is he who does not know what is going on in Jordan." We are the only Arab country that bans the sale of no Arab or foreign publication, because there is no government censorship of information, because the correspondents of newspapers, news agencies, and television stations are working here without any government interference, and because Jordanian citizens listen to all radio stations and watch all television stations that reach them without jamming.

Second, President Bush believes that the thousands of Jordanians who took to the streets in solidarity with Iraq, even after its loss, should have expressed solidarity with the "American victor" or its Arab "allies," should have felt defeat and frustration, and should have lost confidence in their nation and its capability of rising again.

President Bush does not know much about our nation and its values and history. He does not know that the greatest Arab martyr, al-Husayn [son of Caliph 'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib], was defeated and killed, and that the land of Karbala' is holy, although the battle which took place there ended in defeat. The Arab respects the justice of any battle or cause for the which people fight, regardless of the results. We believe that what interests Bush is only the result rather than the justness of the battle, the cause, and the means.

The Tartars achieved victory and entered Baghdad, and the color of the Tigris waters remained blue for weeks because of the great number of books thrown in; the Crusaders entered Jerusalem and their horses waded in the blood of the people who took refuge at al-Aqsa Mosque; and the Ottoman Turks, the French, the British, and the Italians won victories. But this nation rejected all these victories, and the only victory that has survived is the victory of justice, of the cause, and of Arabism. Therefore, we have remained Arab throughout all these long centuries.

President Bush's battle and his "imaginary" victory is not a battle against the Indians or the Nazi Germans. His battle against us is a battle like the ones our nation waged against Hulegu, Genghis Khan, Richard the Lionhearted, Goro [name as published], Allenby, and the other invaders who ended in our history as tyrants along with their barbaric invasions of our lands. We retained our land, civilization, and Arabism because we, like the Jordanians who rushed to bandage Iraq's and Arabism's wounds, have rejected the victory of the tyrants and the barbaric forces. The permanent victors are the Arabs, the permanent justice is the justice of their cause, and the permanent freedom is their freedom. Time will prove that.

President Bush is wrong if he believes that he has achieved victory over our nation, its spirit and its progress. He is wrong again if he believes that any Arab has accepted this "victory" or considered it a fait accompli.

Editorial Urges Iraqi-Kuwaiti Reconciliation

JN0203113991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
2 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "A New Tomorrow"]

[Text] Now that the guns in the Gulf have fallen silent and the ceasefire seems to be taking hold, attention is now directed to post war political settlements for the problems of the entire Gulf and Middle East region. Over and above the terms of the ceasefire that the antagonists will have to agree on, there is a broad spectrum of issues and conflicts in this area that remain unresolved and await immediate attention. The conclusion of the war has not settled these pressing issues and in more than one way left many questions totally unanswered. The most immediate differences that require resolution is of course the Iraqi-Kuwaiti outstanding issues whose settlement U.N. Security Council resolution 660 called for. It will be recalled that operative paragraph 3 of that resolution called on Kuwait and Iraq to enter into immediate negotiations concurrently with

the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Iraq has been steadily called upon by the allied powers to respect and implement all the council's resolutions and there is no better place to begin such a commitment than here. A good test of the sincerity of the belligerent countries about the need to observe and implement all Security Council resolutions on the Gulf is the very conflict that precipitated the war. Stability and security in the Gulf would necessarily envisage good neighbourly relations between all the countries of that region especially between Iraq and Kuwait. Now that Iraq has renounced any future designs or claims on Kuwait, the emirate is duty bound to reciprocate this historic move by an equally generous policy decision towards its neighbour that would ensure lasting harmonious and brotherly relations between them. All efforts must now be exerted to put the past behind us as soon as possible. The Gulf war was a terrible tragedy that should never have occurred. Many mistakes were committed by more than one party and the end result was a catastrophic bloodletting and destruction that the countries of the region could ill afford. Nevertheless, what happened has happened, and what we need more than ever at this stage is to work hard at containing damage. Even more important than material reconstruction is the political, economic and psychological repair between not only the warring governments but also between their respective peoples. After all they are first and foremost one people and will remain so no matter what happened between them through the intervention of third parties and foreign forces. It is perhaps premature to think in terms of another Arab summit for establishing new foundations for future Arab cooperation and coordination but the Arab countries must most certainly begin to think along these lines as soon as possible.

Editorial Views Tasks After 'Senseless' War

JN0103113491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Beyond the War"]

[Text] The war is over! The immense suffering, the human tragedy, the massive devastation that it has caused will be with us for a long time to come. Was it all necessary? Could it have been avoided? These and many other questions will be asked. Volumes will be written on this war. But it is too early to tell whether convincing—or correct—answers can ever be found, whether memory of the nightmare will ever fade.

For most of us here in Jordan, the war was not only senseless, but pointless as well. Members of the coalition, particularly its leader the U.S., see things in different light. We will probably never see eye to eye with them on this one. In the long term, history will be the judge. For now, one has to look ahead. The lessons learned will have to be put to good use. Iraq is down but not out. It will have to be rebuilt and reconstructed. So will Kuwait. So will the damage that has to be repaired, the destruction that has to be reversed. The enmity, the bitterness, the hatred have to be replaced with bridges of mutual respect and understanding. It will be a stupendous task, but nevertheless one that has to be undertaken and accomplished.

Central to this effort will be efforts to resolve all outstanding problems and issues that plague this part of the world. Sincerity, depth, fairness and justice will have to be the guidelines.

The Palestinian problem has to be tackled and solved right away—not at the expense of the PLO or the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. A settlement that is honourable and lasting has to be found, addressing rights where they have to be addressed and reaching roots that have to be reached. A formula for distributing wealth has to be devised. The poorer nations will not have to beg for subsistence and help. The rich will have to give. The less fortunate cannot possibly be expected to remain unfortunate for very long.

Democracy, freedom and independence are inalienable rights that cannot be denied to any people or state. Tyrannies and monopolies and repression will have to end. The so-called guardians of human rights cannot be selective in applying their standards and principles. Every man and woman has the right to be free. Everybody is eual before God and the law.

Mass destruction weapons have to be eliminated from this region, if not from the face of the earth. Double standards and selectivity in applying rules to one state rather than the other should not be tolerated. Hypocrisy and duplicity, particularly by the West, have led to war and desstruction. They could do the same in the future if they stay unchecked.

Foreign forces and troops will have to go back to where they came from. The era of colonialism is gone for ever. And the peoples of the region have to themselves take care of their security and the stability of their world. Recipes made or imposed by others cannot work. They will backfire the moment they are introduced.

The Arab World will have to find itself again. Continued disunity and fratricide will not serve the cause of peace and progress. The Arabs will have to realise that fissures in their ranks have nearly caused their whole world to explode into pieces. Finally, victory cannot be claimed by any side or party to this war. Victory can be claimed only when true peace is made and only by those who make it.

West Urged To Address Arab-Israeli Conflict

JN0303111691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Time for Soul-Searching"]

[Text] The end of the Gulf war is indeed a day for reckoning and soul-searching for all Arabs, governments and peoples alike. That the war was a disaster is a forgone conclusion. Clearly there were major mistakes of

judgement that were continuously and persistently committed by more than one Arab party. As for the blunders made by others, it is a matter that can be best addressed by the peoples of those nations in due course.

For the Arab World itself, time is ripe for drawing sober conclusions from what went wrong. And what went wrong is plenty and enough to go around and reach most, if not all, the Arab capitals. If there is one redeeming thing about the Gulf crisis and the war that ensued from it, it must be the propitious occasion that it presented to the Arabs to hold the major capitals of the world especially the so-called allies accountable for the pledge that they took upon themselves to turn to the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially the Palestinian problem, once the dust settles in the Gulf region.

The Western world in particular has continuously rejected the Arab charge that they were applying double standards to the Gulf situation and the Middle East conflicts. Now is, therefore, the time for the West to reveal its true intentions. U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 now require implementation on a par with the vitality accorded to the numerous resolutions adopted on the Kuwaiti situation. The Arab partners of the coalition countries that waged war against Iraq bear special responsibility to have the West deliver on its promise to deal effectively with the Palestinian case. In this vein, Europe may still prove that it is capable of having an independent perspective on the Arab-Israeli conflict and act accordingly in the next stage which should be set for solving them. Moscow and Peking have a great deal to do to compensate for their inaction to prevent the Gulf war from occurring. Both nations had many opportunities to channel the decisions within and outside the United Nations away from war but chose not to or were unable to do so. Whatever feeling of guilt that they may now have can be harnessed in favour of resolving effectively the Palestinian question and then turn their attention to the remaining conflicts for resolution.

Above all, this is no time to gloat over or humiliate Iraq and its regime. The country has been devastated by 42 days of war, the intensity of which the world had not seen in the past. Iraq is a wounded country and its people have sustained immeasurable damage that requires considerable effort to heal. The rebuilding and reconstruction of Iraq is in the interest of the Gulf region and the rest of the world. The world cannot in good conscience continue to turn a blind eye to the plight of the Iraqi people who have been an innocent casualty of the entire debacle that befell them. Time is therefore ripe for reconciliation and not for vindicative pronouncements or recriminations.

Linkage Between Palestine, Gulf Issues Stressed

NC0503003391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Sudden Interest in the Palestine Question"]

[Text] The sudden interest in the Palestine question, which can be seen in the statements coming out of the major Western capitals, is no coincidence.

This long ignored issue has come to the fore now that the Gulf crisis has ended, conclusive evidence of the genuine linkage between the Palestine question, the mother of all questions, and the Gulf crisis. Iraq realized this from the beginning, and the Palestine question occupied a central position in Baghdad's political initiatives.

Despite the course of absolute rejection to which Washington and its allies were committed and their arrogance and intransigence on the question of linkage, we can clearly see that Washington and the Western and other world capitals acknowledge the correctness of the Iraqi position, although they adamantly refuse to give Iraq credit for this.

Perhaps the clearest indication of the undeniable relationship between the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis came when U.S. President Bush stressed that Iraq must commit itself to halting the missile attacks on the Zionist entity before a cease-fire would be worked out! In this way, the architect of the aggression against Iraq acknowledged that the two issues were linked by the Iraqi missile attacks on the Zionist entity during the war.

We recall the words of His Majesty King Husayn in his recent speech to the effect that a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question must pass through the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This solution must be based on a recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, foremost among which is their right to self-determination on the soil of their homeland. Jordan is committed to this position under all circumstances.

If the United States and its Western allies now show a noticeable interest in the political efforts being exerted to resolve the Palestine question and seek to exploit the outcome of the Gulf war to impose the solution they want in an attempt to mollify the hatred and suffering caused by the crime of the aggression against Iraq, they should know that the Arab people will never forget the blood of the heroic Iraqi people. Moreover, the Arab people will never forget the pain and blood of the struggling Palestinian people.

All Arabs must now work sincerely and vigorously to ensure that the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question are placed on the correct path within the framework of international legitimacy, under the umbrella of which the Gulf war was launched.

We must be cautious about the political formulas presented by Washington in this regard, formulas which agree with the objectives of the Zionist entity but conflict with the objectives and ambitions of the Palestinian Arab people. As of yesterday, the U.S. position had not changed. On the eve of his tour of the region, James Baker said "there may be a need to hold an international

peace conference on the Middle East at the appropriate time." This indicates that the United States is determined to deal with international legitimacy on a selective basis. Will the Arabs come to their senses and rouse themselves from the shock?!

Kuwaitis Warned Against Persecuting Palestinians

JN0503082591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "No to Kangaroo Justice"]

[Text] There are persistent reports emanating from Kuwait that the Palestinian residents of that country are in eminent danger. It appears that the Kuwaitis are bent on venting their anger at the Iraqi regime through taking it out on their Palestinian brothers for allegedly aiding and abetting the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. There is nothing worse than making the Palestinians once again the scape goats for the deeds of others. If the Palestinians end up being lynched by mobs in front of the very eyes of the Kuwaiti government and get persecuted collectively on the basis of guilt by association, then we are in for another Sabra and Shatila. This is not to suggest that any wrongdoing by residents of Kuwait, be they Palestinians or otherwise, may not be prosecuted in courts of law. But what should not be condoned or accepted ever is any attempt to carry out "kangaroo trials" of innocent Palestinians by Kuwaiti mobs roaming the streets in these difficult times.

Lest Kuwait and Kuwaitis forget, the Palestinian residents of Kuwait have not merely been wage earners; they also contributed effectively to the country's development and prosperity throughout the past four decades. Many thousands of them were born in the country and spent most if not all of their formative and productive years in it. For most of them, Kuwait is the only country that they know and have, even though they never enjoyed full civic or political rights there.

There is enough Arab blood that was shed already in the Gulf war. There must not be any more fratricide or retributions against a people who have suffered endlessly at the hands of the Israelis and their foreign backers. The government of Kuwait is therefore called upon to act expeditiously to prevent any act that may mar the joy of liberation. A clear message to the Kuwaiti people must be sent immediately to the effect that revenge against any Palestinian will not be tolerated and that whoever perpetrates such crimes will be brought to justice and punished.

The Arab League likewise must also act in the face of such ominous developments in Kuwait. The experience of Lebanon must not be repeated.

Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid Arrives, Views Arab Meeting

NC0403181091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 4 Mar (SANA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a delegation arrived in Damascus this evening to participate in a meeting that will include the foreign ministers of Syria and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister; the directors of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments; the Syrian ambassador to Egypt; the Egyptian ambassador to Syria, and the Syrian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, received 'Abd-al-Majid at the airport.

The Egyptian foreign minister made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he expressed happiness at holding this meeting on Syrian territory. He said it is a continuation of a similar meeting held in Cairo and is regarded as one of the most important meetings that will deal with current and forthcoming developments in the wake of the Gulf war and the liberation of Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Majid continued: The meeting of the Syrian, Egyptian, and GCC foreign ministers in Damascus is for the good of the entire Arab nation and this is true as long as we continue to have close ties with each other. These meetings will doubtless produce positive results for the Arab people.

He announced: I look on these meetings with great satisfaction and optimism, particularly after Kuwait's liberation and the end of the Iraqi aggression against it. Matters have gradually started to return to normal.

He added: Despite this, some problems remain but I am confident that we will overcome them as long as we have a united stand and collectively wish to safeguard the Arab nation's interests.

'Abd-al-Majid expressed hope that this meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss current developments regarding security arrangements in the region. He said it is necessary for this to proceed from the region's countries themselves. He added that he also hopes that the meeting will discuss economic cooperation and lay down proper foundations for it in addition to discussing ways of attaining a just settlement of the Arab Palestinian people's issue.

Commentary Urges Repudiation of Baghdad Rulers

NC0403145691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In these difficult days after matters have run their course in the Gulf war and the tragic results of the military battles have become known to every person with understanding, the Arab citizen everywhere, and the Arab citizen in Iraq in particular, looks around for rays of hope that will restore to him his security, confidence in the future, and the assurance which the contradictions around him have devastated. This is the situation after Baghdad's regime, before and after the war, encroached on our pan-Arab sanctities, stabbed the Iraqi people's dreams of unity, deprived them of their ability to safeguard the homeland's territory and destiny, and hurled them into the abyss of a futile war that could only lead to destruction and devastation.

Out of our absolute commitment to our pan-Arab responsibility and at a time when we are more conscious of the repercussions of the war and while we are extremely pained at all that has happened to Iraq, it behooves us to open the windows of hope to the brothers, the sons of our Iraqi people and the Arabs in general, who believe in the ability of Iraq, Kuwait, and the nation to rise from the midst of the catastrophe to retrieve all that the war has deprived us of, to reconstruct all that its eruptions have wrecked, and to direct our steps again along a road whose objectives we clearly know and in which we see the nation's good. We must not look back or succumb to a war-related complex that will distract us from attaining all the glory, civilization, and progress that our nation deserves.

At the beginning of this road, we find nothing more pressing than the need to reunite our ranks and learn the moral of the lesson which led some of us to adopt dangerous, unreasonable, and illogical stands that at some time almost suggested to others that we have no other cause but to destroy ourselves, provoke seditions among ourselves, and settle accounts in the most cruel and lethal methods, all this while the enemy's cohesiveness increases and his military and economic power grows at the expense of our weakness and divisions.

At the beginning of this road also, it is imperative to admit that Baghdad's ruler and his misleading entourage, have been, in the past few years, the bearers and makers of this dismal Arab scene, and that all they have done for Iraq and the entire nation is to drive Iraq to the ugliest catastrophe in Arab history. They also placed the whole nation in this difficult situation. We are looking in all directions for ways to rid ourselves of it and save ourselves from its fires.

For this reason, the way to revive the nation's unity and solidarity and to heal Iraq's wounds and alleviate its pain can only be by renouncing the destructive policy which the Baghdad rulers imposed on the last decade of this Arab era. It can only be by repudiating the symbols who intentionally let Iraq burn and its sons die without price in wars of no interest to any Arab both inside and outside Iraq. Also to be repudiated are the tools who provoked all this ruin in our current Arab situation with misguiding slogans that, in their true essence, carry only pure poison to the Arabs.

Iraq's and the Arabs' road to the future is perfectly clear regardless of how dark the picture looks today. All of us belong to a living nation that is not deterred by ordeals, no matter how cruel they are, and that is not diverted from the right path by the agitation of misguiders no matter how skillful they are at misguidance.

Bangladesh

Awami League Challenges BNP Right To Govern

BK0403162791 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] A delegation of Awami League headed by Sheikh Hasina called on the acting president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in Dhaka this evening. During the meeting, the delegation discussed with the acting president the postelection situation. The delegation expressed the view that the constitution of parliament has not yet been completed and as such it is not possible for the acting president to say which member of the parliament commands the support of the majority members in the parliament. They further said that the repolling in some centers and (?four) constituencies and elections in two constituencies are yet to be held.

They said the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] has not got the absolute majority in the parliament and since it is not a parliamentary system of government, the party getting the (?simple) majority has no right to get a chance to form the ministry and then prove its majority in the parliament when it is summoned. If the acting president appoints the prime minister from the BNP, then he will no longer remain acting president, but he will be a part of the BNP government, they added.

They said if BNP government is formed, they will go for the movement for the realization of the objectives for which a neutral acting president was brought into the office.

The acting president advised them to come to a dialogue with the majority party to sort out these questions. The acting president did not accept the allegation that he will lose his neutrality for whoever is appointed a prime minister [sentence as heard]. The present form of presidential government will remain intact. Under the system, the members of the council of ministers are mere advisers and all powers remain in the hands of the president. The other members of the deleagation were Syed Azharullah Tajuddin, Abdul Mannan, Abdus Samad Ejaz, Dr. Kamal Hussain, Sajda Chowdhury, Mohammad Qamruzzaman, Amir Hussaim Ammu, Mohammad Mohsin, Abdul Momin, and Shamshul Rahman Khan.

Sheikh Hasina's Resignation 'Turned Down'

BK0403083091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 4 Mar 91

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, March 4 (AFP)—The failure by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League to win last week's national elections has produced jitters among party supporters, with possible leadership changes in the offing, sources said Monday.

The mass-circulation daily ITTEFAQ reported Monday that Sheikh Hasina had resigned because of her party's poor showing in the polls, and Mohammad Nasim, the league's publicity secretary, said her resignation was turned down.

A senior league leader who requested anonymity said, "We are now evaluating the causes behind our failure to win the polls, which we were sure to win... Our supporters also want some answers from the leadership."

The party leader also said a feeling was growing among party cadres that the leadership was responsible for the debacle.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia had an upset win over the league last Wednesday, securing 140 seats in the 300-member Jatiya Sangsad, or parliament, while the league trailed with 84 seats.

It was the first free election in this politically volatile South Asian country since it emerged as an independent nation in 1971.

At the league's first post-poll working committee meeting Sunday, speaker after speaker spoke at length on the failures of the leadership, sources said, adding that all fingers were clearly pointing at Sheikh Hasina.

Sheikh Hasina, daughter of slain president and Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, took the helm of the party in 1981 after returning from self-exile in Germany and India.

Since the defeat, Awami League members have flocked to Sheikh Hasina's residence in the Dhanmandi area here to analyse the rout.

The league's organising secretary Tofail Ahmed said, "mistakes in pre-poll speeches and activities of the party leaders and workers were responsible for the poor show."

Both he and Kamal Hussain bowed to the people's verdict, although Sheikh Hasina refused to concede defeat, saying people had voted for her but the results were overturned by a "reactionary clique."

Abdur Razzaq, president of the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League, a component of the eight-party alliance led by the Awami League, said a vitriolic televised speech Sheikh Hasina made 48 hours before polls opened was "highly counter-productive," alienating voters and costing her party the election.

Sheikh Hasina had attacked the BNP and promised to put on trial the killers of her father, but failed to specify what she would do for the public.

Observers also noted her failure to promise to avoid mistakes by the party during her father's rule between 1972 and 1975.

Leaders and workers, according to party insiders, were now worried about the fate of the league and reproached leaders for their inability feel the pulse of the voters.

They also accuse the leadership of singling out the BNP for attack and being soft on the Jatiya (National) Party of deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, whose trial on corruption charges is eagerly awaited.

Some suspect a secret understanding between the league and the Jatiya Party, recalling Sheikh Hasina's participation in the 1986 parliamentary polls under Mr. Ershad—boycotted by the BNP.

Political analysts here said another liability was Sheikh Hasina's link with neighbouring India, which the BNP said would be allowed to dominate Bangladeshi affairs under a league administration.

Also working against her was her plan to drop references to Islam from predominantly Muslim Bangladesh's constitution, dismissing criticism by saying "secularism does not mean atheism."

Court Orders Release of Former Vice President

BK0403155191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1538 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Dhaka, March 4 (AFP)—A Dhaka court Monday ordered the release of former Bangladesh Vice President Moudud Ahmed, saying his detention was illegal, court sources said.

High Court Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury said Mr. Ahmed should be released if not found guilty of any crime.

Mr. Ahmed was arrested in December and detained for 120 days under the 1974 special powers act soon after former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad was deposed in a mass uprising against his eight-year-old government.

Since new year's eve, Mr. Ahmed had been held in the high-security Dhaka central jail under the 1974 act, which allows for detention without charges.

Last month, a two-judge high court had given a split decision and the case was then sent to the chief justice, who in turn referred the matter to Mr. Chowdhury's court.

Attorney General Aminul Huq argued for the state that Mr. Ahmed was arrested on specific charges and for his involvment in "prejudicial activities."

Mr. Ahmed and two of his aides were charged by police in February with stealing more than 147 million dollars from the government exchequer.

The anti-corruption bureau said the case involved the criminal misappropriation of state funds that had been allocated to a unused fertiliser unit.

India

Prime Minister Comments on Anti-Terrorist Measures

BK0503075491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] New Delhi and London are discussing steps to curb the activities of anti-India terrorists operating from Britain. The prime minister disclosed this in the Raja Sabha [Upper House] during question hour today. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the British Government is likely to enact a law to confiscate funds collected by militant organizations. He said the Pakistan prime minister had also assured him that his country will not encourage terrorist activities.

Answering a question, the prime minister said the situation in Punjab has improved considerably. He said the planned operations launched by the government to counteract militancy in the state have yielded results. The prime minister, however, reiterated that his government will not tolerate any killings of innocent people. He said the government is ready for talks with any one to find a peaceful solution to the problem. Mr. Chandra Shekhar stressed the need for winning over the minds of the people as the first step toward finding any solution.

Spokesman Comments on Kuwaiti UN Envoy Remarks

BK0403160091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] New Delhi has denied reports that the Iraqi leader, Mr. Saddam Husayn, is seeking political asylum in India. An External Affairs Ministry Spokesman today categorically dismissed the reports saying they have no foundation.

Reacting to reports that the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Nations is said to have expressed unhappiness over India's initial stand on the Gulf crisis, the spokesman said Kuwait had appreciated India's stand of favoring a solution to the Gulf crisis based on the Un Security Council resolutions. He said this appreciation was conveyed by senior members of the Kuwaiti government during their recent visits to India.

Commentary Views Pakistan's Gulf Policy

BK0203123591 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Virendra Mohan Trehan commentary entitled "Pakistan policy and the Gulf war"]

[Text] In the recent years, nothing has shaken the Pakistani polity so severely as the Gulf war. It has created serious dissensions within the ruling classes and led to demand that learning lessons from the Gulf war, the country should radically restructure its foreign policy. The normally suppressed public found a rare outlet

through processions, mass meetings, and demonstrations, some of which took an (?ugly) turn. If a referendum on the Gulf war were to be held in Pakistan, the electorate would have given a verdict in favor of Saddam Husayn voting that Pakistan Army should have dispatched its troops to fight alongside Iraq. This is because Pakistani leadership has all through been exploiting masses in the name of Islam, sidetracking the realities on the ground.

To come over the internal problems, the leadership has always been playing anti-India card. They have been looking for to grab Kashmir by force simply because majority of people living in Jammu and Kashmir have been Muslims. It is not that Pakistan has any love for Muslims but because Pakistan finds it easy to creat religious hysteria. Pakistan's love for Muslims can be judged from the stand against Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan, and the atrocities committed against the Muslim brethren in Bangladesh, erstwhile East Pakistan. Even in Pakistan, the bloodshed between Sindhis and Punjabis and between original Pakistanis and migrants from India, who are still called mohajirs, speak of the love they have for Muslims.

Coming down to Gulf war, which is now over thank God, we must examine how Pakistani prime minister, other politicians, chief of the armed forces, and public reacted to the happenings in the Gulf and why. They drag differently because of internal frictions or [words indistinct] by different reasons, although the conspiracy carefully calculated to cover all contingencies.

The Nawaz Sharif government was pro-America and sent some 12,000-strong contingent of troops to fight against Iraq in order to seek foreign aid free of arms supply and other moral and material aid against India. After all, foreign aid has never been given by any country out of any altruistic considerations, rather it has been a vital instrument of achieving foreign policy objectives. The world is today becoming unipolar. The fear of the spread of communism has died down, the Afghanistan problem has receded into the background. Of India, U.S. has started saying that let India and Pakistan not interfere in each other's internal affairs and let the Simla agreement work as a base for sorting out all problems. The last but not the least, the supply of guns for nuclear restraint policy is also (?complying) with Pakistani acquiring nuclear capability in a clandestine manner.

At the top of all this, there is a fundamental weakness in Pakistan's economy. It has a foreign aid dependency character. Today, the country has to borrow around $2 billion annually to meet its day-to-day consumption, debt servicing, and developmental expenditure. By supporting USA alone, Pakistan can get aid from IMF, World Bank, and direct U.S. assistance. Pakistan is also looking [for] great aid lastly from Saudi Arabia.

At a time when anti-U.S. sentiments in the Gulf are touching astonishing levels in Pakistan, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto opted to fly off on a month-long sojourn to the United States, where she not only openly supported U.S. action of disintegrating Iraq, but also made a desperate bid to project herself as a peace-maker in order to get U.S. support to get back to power politics. Pakistan's ruling triumvirate—Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Jatoi, and General Aslam Beg—promptly dispatched Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia and was ready to send four times this number on further demand. But under pressure from former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and a cluster of several small mullah-led fundamentalists, General Beg fired the first salvo by criticizing USA which was followed by Agha Shahi, a former foreign minister and others.

The sudden upsurge among masses has reflected in daily demonstrations, firings, and killings was not merely due to sympathy for poor solitary Islamic David involved in an unequal and cruel struggle against monstrously powerful Goliath backed by an enormous 28-nation alliance. In fact, anti-Americanism in masses was deliberately generated as the USA had denied them assistance which could render them militarily and economically weak. It was not for the first time that USA was pro-Israeli.

Iran

President, France's Mitterand Discuss Gulf

LD0403170391 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and French President Francois Mitterrand discussed on telephone the latest developments in the region, the critical situation in Iraq, and Persian Gulf security, Monday evening.

Mitterrand agreed with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's views that regional problems should be solved by countries of the region. He also underscored the need for Iran-France cooperation for restoration of peace in the region. The French president termed Article 8 of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 as a "good basis" for solving problems facing the region and for drawing up the blue-print of Persian Gulf security.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani maintained that "regional problems should be solved in the region and by countries lying there. Any plan to be dictated by outsiders is doomed to fail." France and other European states could make efforts for a speedy restoration of peace and tranquility in the region, he added.

The Iranian president expressed concern about the critical situation in Iraq with regards to reports of new developments happenig inside that country. The two presidents also called for expansion of mutual cooperation through contacts between Iranian and French authorities at the highest possible level.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Telephones Syria's Al-'Asad

LD0403191991 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 4, IRNA—In a telephone conversation Monday afternoon President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-'Asad reviewed regional situation as well as the internal developments in Iraq.

The public relations office of presidential bureau said that in their conversation the two heads of state had emphasized on the need for a collective effort of the Muslim states for returning peace and security to the region.

Earlier today Rafsanjani had reviewed the regional situation as well as the internal situation in Iraq in a telephone conversation with the French President Francois Mitterrand.

IRNA on Karrubi's Pakistan, DPRK Visits

LD0303215391 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March, 3, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi returned to Tehran Sunday after a nine-day "very fruitful" visit to Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

He said the Pakistanis received him and his delegation "very warmly", and in his meetings with Pakistani Government and religious officials, he discussed "various topics of mutual interest." Hoj. Karrubi described as "identical" the outlooks of Iran and Pakistan on regional issues, and said the Pakistanis, too, maintain that foreign forces should [words indistinct] security is the business of littoral states. He said the two neighbourng countries also held the same views regarding establishing a common Islamic market. He also disclosed that a Pakistani delegation is to visit Tehran shortly in order to benefit from Iran's experience in the area of Islamicizing the laws of the state. In his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the Iranian Majles speaker stated that those involved in the assassination of the head of Iran's culture house in Lahore, Sadeq Ganji, should be duly punished. It was also agreed that the capacity of a joint Iran-Pakistan refinery in Pakistan be increased from the present 80,000 bpd [barrels per day] to 120,000 bpd, and that 40,000 [not further identified] of the refined oil be earmarked for Iran's Baluchestan va Sistan Province.

On his visit to Pyongyang, Hoj. Karrubi said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has demonstrated true commitment to its anti-imperialistic position. "The Korean people still maintain the spirit of the early days of their revolution," he added. The Majles speaker noted that in his meeting with DPRK leader Kim Il-song as he quoted the late Imam Khomeyni's statement: "We will die but we will not surrender to the United States" the Korean leader rose to his feet and fervently applauded. He said during his stay in Pyongyang an agreement for oil sales to the DPRK for a period of five years was signed according to which Iran will sell one million tons of crude to that country annually.

German Company To Build Two Nuclear Plants

LD0403230391 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Bonn, March 4, IRNA—The German Company Kraft Werk Union which is committed to build two nuclear plants for Iran in the Persian Gulf port-city of Bushehr has asked Iran's views for the appropriate technology.

A spokesman for Kraft Werk Union said today that the company does not know if Iran wishes to have new technology for the two plants or the older one according to a contract signed way back in 1976.

The spokesman Wolfgang Breyer told IRNA that his company awaits the authorization of the German Government for sending parts and components to the Islamic Republic.

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization entered into an agreement with Kraft Werk Union in 1976 whereby the German company was commissioned to build two atomic plants in Iran with the capacity of 1,300 mega watts. Kraft Werk Union is a subsidiary of Siemens company.

The project was shelved during the Islamic revolution in 1979 with the German company unilaterally cancelling the contract by claiming that the Iranian Government had not paid the outstanding installments and that parts and components at the Iranian customs office had not been released in due time.

In the wake of the unilateral cancellation the two sides filed a claim and a counterclaim with the Paris International Chamber of Commerce. The chamber ruled that Iran should remit the amounts payable to the Kraft Werk Union and the German company should proceed with the work according to its commitments, which ruling was accepted by both parties to the litigation.

Breyer said in the wake of the issue of the ruling 28,000 tons of parts and components needed for the two plants were sent to Iran, but that the sending of the remaining 7,000 tons would require an official authorization of the German Government. The spokesman noted that thus far on various grounds including the eight year Iraqi war against Iran, the German Government has refused to issue a clearance for the items to be shipped to Iran.

Last month Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Bonn asked German officials to issue a clearance for the shipping of the subject items to Iran.

Breyer said initially the cost of the project was estimated to be about 5.5 billion marks, but a revaluation of estimated costs has not yet been made.

He said the Kraft Werk Union would have to inspect the unfinished plant once again, since shortly after their previous inspection of the plant the Iraqi airforce bombarded it and inflicted yet undetermined damage on it.

Kraft Werk Union of Siemens company is the largest industrial enterprise in Germany and manufactures various kinds of water, gas, steam and nuclear-operated power plants.

West's Victory Said To Lead to More 'Suffering'

LD0303143991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Greetings to our dear listeners. On the basis of the latest United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Iraqi regime is obliged to reveal where its chemical and biological weapons are hidden in Kuwait. Security Council Resolution 686 also obliges Iraq to provide the necessary information on those weapons in parts of the Iraqi territory which are under the control of the multinational forces. Many political circles believe the new Security Council resolution is, in fact, the mandate of the so-called victorious side in its military war against Iraq. [passage omitted]

Political experts say Iraq is not in a situation where it can practically refuse to accept the new resolution because previous resolutions on the crisis are still in force and U.S.-led foreign force still occupy some sensitive parts of Iraqi territory. If what has been reported on the internal situation in Iraq, and particularly in regions under foreign control, is correct, currently widespread turmoil is developing in those regions. Therefore, the Iraqi government is not in a situation where it can impose its own conditions on allied governments or on new resolutions.

Even though some term Resolution 686 as the victory resolution, it seems the way is still open for a further resolution. That resolution calls on Iraq to abandon all its claims on Kuwait and obliges Iraq to reveal the place where its nuclear and biological weapons are hidden in Kuwait and parts of the Iraqi territory. That same point leads analysts to believe that allied forces whose intention were, from the start of the war, to destroy the Iraqi military capability, now are trying to reach the same goals through political intimidation and the latest Security Council resolution. Regarding the way in which military operations were implemented, mainly in the form of a remote-control war, what seems threatening to the allied governments and the Israeli regime is the capability of Iraq's nonconventional weapons. The Iraqi Army, even if the present regime is supposedly able to continue its rule, is capable of reconstructing and reorganizing itself. Therefore, in view of those governments, some parts and sections should be removed from the structure of that army so that it is incapable of posing any threat under any government or rule in the future.

The 13 Security Council resolutions, which have been issued about the Persian Gulf crisis since the occupation of Kuwait, all form part of the conditions of the regional security plan which the U.S.-led coalition governments intend to establish. The occupation of Kuwait was a tragedy for the region, but the pleasure of what Westeners call victory can lead to the region's further suffering and pain.

Newspapers Comment on Gulf War Aftermath

LD0403093591 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—The two English dailies Monday [4 March] editorialized on the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war. TEHRAN TIMES wrote that a popular government free of the Ba'th Party and of the present Iraqi army should be established while KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said "absolute dictatorships cannot survive defeat."

Referring to the U.N. Security Council resolutions which urge Iraq to pay reparations to Kuwait, TEHRAN TIMES said, "If a change does occur in the Iraqi ruling system, the new government, can take recourse to a principle in international law on 'change of circumstances' and on that basis deny its financial obligations by way of reparations and other debts."

Believing that a stable life in Iraq "is dependent on the change in the structure of the ruling system there," it stressed that the people should not follow instructions by the aliens.

The daily rejected that the person of 'Saddam Husayn' is the cause of all the misfortunes of the Iraqi people and instead put the blame on the Ba'th Party and its extreme sectarian tendencies.

The other daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote, "In the war's aftermath, America believes it can afford to be smug—it is the winner, Iraq the loser."

Referring to British Prime Minister John Major's statement that countries who actively engaged in the hot conflict have the priority in landing construction projects, the paper said, "This means the jobs should go to the U.S. and Britain—the two countries who are now in recession....this is the chance for them to boost their employment levels, expand the market for their products and services with a relative advantage over Japan, Germany, the Soviet Union, France, Italy—countries who already have established networks in the Middle East."

"The U.S., however, might have oversimplified the solution to its economic woes by interfering in the affairs of the Persian Gulf region for the explosive mixture of nationalism and Islam will not necessarily be contained with its sitting on the region's wealth. Instead militancy

in the Arab world might well grow stronger the farther one moves from the battlefield."

Warning the U.S. that the problems of the Middle East will not fade with Saddam Husayn's defeat, the paper underlined, "The region's populace now feel, more than ever, that they deserve better than cruel and absolute dictators, Western-manipulated leaders, or corrupt monarchies. They will always remember that the Western powers, out of cold war logic, fear of Iran's increasing regional role, or plain greed, turned Saddam Husayn from a local despot to a regional destabilizer."

"Iraqis are aware of what happened in their country. After years of sacrifice in the war against Iran, they were less eager to die for the Kuwaiti grab. While democracies cannot sustain too many war casualties, absolute dictatorships cannot survive defeat."

Commentary on U.S. Presence, Objectives in Gulf

NC0403105291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God.

When announcing the liberation of Kuwait U.S. President George Bush said that his work has not ended in the region. He said that he will be sending his secretary of state this week to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

After the liberation of Kuwait from occupation by the Iraqi forces, the U.S. presence in the region is being extensively discussed by academics and political experts. In light of the political circumstances, the heads of the military coalition, especially the United States, have also submitted various views in this regard. Dick Cheney, U.S. secretary of defense, in his latest remarks on the 40-year long presence in the Persian Gulf, stated: One of the U.S. objectives is the greater presence of U.S. naval forces in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis. Cheney also said: We can leave part of our Air Force as well as heavy military equipment in the region.

The U.S. presence in the Middle East is based on three main politico-economic, military, and security axes. The extensive military presence to guarantee the economic and political objectives is being continued on the pretext of implementing the UN Resolutions.

However, it is obvious that the presence of nearly 700,000 multinational troops, of whom 530,000 are Americans, cannot continue in the present form. Therefore, finding a formula within the framework of a multilateral plan is one of the objectives of the U.S. President. The plan is multilateral because it is to serve as a reliable bridge between U.S. regional and international interests. By putting together the largest military coalition against Iraq, even before it raised the coefficient of the reliability of military operations, Washington was testing the future form of the world order in the most acute problem in the past decade.

In the course of the past seven months, the United States—by having 12 Security Council Resolutions about Kuwait approved, from economic sanctions to the authorized use of force against Iraq—sought to play a fundamental role.

Resolution 686, which was approved yesterday morning, is based on the U.S. President's request to Iraq for a cease-fire. The continuation of this trend in international issues, provided it is successful, is ostensibly for the consolidation of the U.S. role as a leader in international issues and the future world order. This means that the United States, by riding on the wave of international opposition to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, wants to dictate every step to the international community. It is the continuation of this very trend that threatens the world.

This trend is one for which the United States does not recognize the need to adhere to the stipulated legal framework. The extensive destruction of the Iraqi military machinery and its fundamental economic structure in the course of the war, and the massacre of thousands of innocent civilians on the pretext of the liberation of Kuwait was part of the United States' lack of adherence to the framework of the Security Council resolutions.

In any case, the Persian Gulf countries are now facing a very important problem with bloody implications. However, the United States, in an attempt to hide the dimensions of the catastrophe that took place with the formation of a coalition and the advent of the war, imposed stringent news censorship to preempt pressure from public opinion—which according to the U.S. leaders was the White House's major impediment in the Vietnam War and which has to a certain extent prevented the reflection of the violence in the current war.

With the passage of time and when the realities of the war are revealed, there will probably not be an atmosphere conducive to the implementation of the illicit desires of the United States and its military allies in the region. If the United States wants to pursue its longterm objectives and interests, which are diametrically opposed to the interests of the people of the region, under the guise of the heroic liberator of Kuwait, it will generate security problems in the region and probably bring about unforeseeable wars.

Commentary Claims Turkey's Esteem 'Weakened'

NC0403094491 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey's Stand on the Gulf War"]

[Excerpts] Turkish-Iraqi relations changed significantly after Iraq occupied Kuwait. Turkey first reacted by criticizing Kuwait's occupation and by calling for Iraq's

unconditional withdrawal. Turkey's policy later was along the lines of the U.S. policy. This can be better understood by considering James Baker's contacts in Turkey and the talks the Turkish officials held with President Bush.

Turkey is the only NATO country with common borders with Iraq. Turkey's obligations to NATO have always forced Ankara to consider two factors when determining its policy in the region. The first is to win the favor of the United States and Europe; the second is always to remember the importance of the wealthy countries in the region in relation to Turkey's interests. In fact, Turkey's move to close down the Iraqi pipeline and allow the United States to use its military bases against Iraq should be assessed against these factors. However, Ankara's request for military aid from NATO and the use of the military bases by foreign forces against Iraq, regardless of the Iraqi officials' continued insistence that their country would not attack Turkey, has weakened the Turkish Government's esteem in the eyes of the people in Turkey and in the region. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Turkish officials continue to try to acquire aid from the United States and Europe in an effort to redeem the loss incurred by the Gulf crisis. Of course, the United States' aid to Turkey is primarily military, which is not a contribution to Turkey's economy. [passage omitted]

Turkey's participation in the Gulf war has not gone beyond opening its military bases and air fields to the Western countries. However, considering Turkey's relations with the countries in the region, even this will create serious problems for Turkey after the war.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Pro-Panchayat Party Criticizes Interim Government

BK0403152691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 4 (AFP)—Some 1,700 delegates and 900 observers gathered here Monday to open a three-day convention of the National Democratic Party (NDP), headed by Surya Bahadur Thapa.

A party source said the convention at the Royal Nepal Academy auditorium got underway "with great enthusiasm and high spirit."

Rurdra Prasad Sharma, the Kathmandu district chairman of the NDP, which backs a partyless Panchayat system of government for this Himalayan kingdom, delivered the welcoming speech.

Then the party's national Secretary General Rabindra Nath Sharma submitted a report on the NDP's activities over the past year.

In inaugurating the convention, Mr. Thapa, a former prime minister, criticized Nepal's interim government.

"After coming to power (in the wake of popular unrest last year), the pro-democratic multi-party leaders in the government failed to restore law and order and to protect human rights in the country," he said.

"The interim government has failed to protect the life of the political leaders who go to the districts to address the public meetings," he added.

"The democratic leaders captured power by raising the popular slogans of democracy and human rights, but after the formation of the government (they) did not fulfill the pledges they made to the public."

He said the NDP was the only "full-fledged democratic party" in Nepal.

An NDP spokesman said a variety of resolutions were submitted during Monday's session, touching on such issue as politics, social issues, law and order, the economy, the gulf crisis and alleged corruption.

Before it ends Wednesday, the convention is also to endorse an election manifesto, and adopt various motions pressing for more jobs and rural development in Nepal.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Discusses Success of Gulf Policy

BK0403155991 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said the turn of events in the Gulf war has vindicated that the government's foreign policy is in keeping with the vital interests of the country and it has safeguarded the national interest. Winding up the debate on the Gulf situation in the National Assembly this evening, he said Pakistan's stand on the Gulf war has been fully appreciated by the international community [words indistinct]. It is this policy which has now placed Pakistan in a favorable position after the Gulf cease-fire and has opened several avenues of cooperation based on mutual interests.

The foreign minister said Pakistan did its best to save Iraq from defeat and destruction, but Iraq turned a deaf ear to its appeals. He referred to the international community's efforts to persuade Iraq to vacate its aggression against Kuwait and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's efforts and his visits to Islamic countries for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. He added that the country's policy vis-a-vis the complex problems they are facing today is in the best interests of the country.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the end of Gulf war and the subsequent large-scale reconstruction work will offer unprecedented opportunities. By adopting a courageous and principled stand, Pakistan can play a vital role in the

economy. [sentence as heard]. The foreign minister referred to the views expressed by certain members against the government's policy during the debate and regretted that no one ever presented any useful and feasible proposals for a balanced foreign policy. He pointed out that the Gulf war was not a conflict between Christianity and Islam. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan replied to every criticism of the government's policy and described as incorrect the impression that Pakistan was serving U.S. interests. He reaffirmed the basic principle of Pakistan's foreign policy that no country's aggression against any other country will ever be supported. He reminded the members how Pakistan has not buckled under U.S. pressure on the nuclear issue, which has led to the stoppage of U.S. military and economic aid.

Earlier, two members took part in the debate today. Mahmud Khan Achakzai of the Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party said the just ended Gulf war is part of the design of Western imperialists against Arabs and Muslims. An independent member, Iqbal Abdul Rahim, welcomed the Gulf cease-fire and commended the prime minister's efforts toward a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Minister Resigns Over Gulf Policy

BK0403163291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Islamabad, March 4 (AFP)—A Pakistan minister resigned from the cabinet Monday, citing differences with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over the government's gulf policy.

Maulana Mohammad Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, who had been minister for rural development and local government, said he decided to quit because Mr. Sharif had accused him of speaking against the government's stand on the gulf crisis.

Another reason, he told reporters, was what he described as Mr. Sharif's indifference towards implementing shari'a, or Islamic law, in Pakistan.

Mr. Niazi, 72, is leader of the fundamentalist Jamiat Ulema Pakistan (JUP), a component of Pakistan's ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

While in the government, he headed a committee appointed by the prime minister to bring about a consensus on a draft shari'a bill ahead of its presentation to parliament.

Pakistan sent 10,000 troops to Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational forces arrayed against Iraq. It also supported all United Nations resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

National Assembly Passes Gulf Resolution

BK0503070591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The National Assembly passed a resolution last night saying that no country could be allowed to occupy a nation by force. The resolution was passed after a lengthy debate on the Gulf situation. During the debate the house supported the government's principled stand. The resolution also endorsed the government's call for convening an emergency session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to discuss the evolving situation in the Gulf region and observed that the crisis in the region had not only damaged the resources of Muslim countries, but also affected the strength they enjoyed in the Middle East. The National Assembly assured the nation that on this delicate issue the members of Parliament would make all possible efforts to promote the national interest and Pakistan's independent role in international affairs.

The resolution demanded the immediate deployment of Muslim peace forces in the Gulf to oversee the withdrawal of foreign troops under ICO supervision.

The resolution demanded that Israel immediately withdraw from occupied Palestine in accordance with UN resolutions.

The resolution demanded that a plebiscite be held in Jammu and Kashmir and India should be pressured to stop perpetrating atrocities against Muslims in occupied Kashmir. [passage omitted]